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A  
NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE MOST REMARKABLE  
QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, FISHES, SERPENTS,  
REPTILES, AND INSECTS.

INTERSPERSED WITH  
*Interesting characteristic Anecdotes:*

AND EMBELLISHED WITH UPWARDS OF  
THREE HUNDRED ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD,  
BY MR. S. WILLIAMS.

---

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.





# A NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE MOST REMARKABLE  
QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, FISHES, SERPENTS,  
REPTILES, AND INSECTS.

BY  
MRS. MARY TRIMMER,

*Author of The History of Man in a Savage and Civilized State, &c*



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WELLOC

HISTORICAL  
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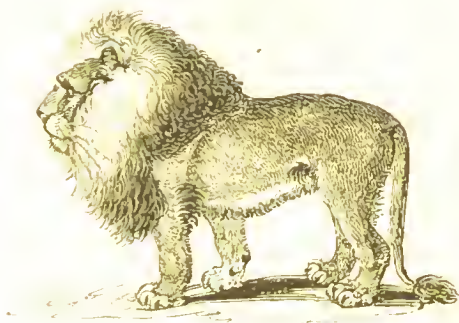
# NATURAL HISTORY

OF

## QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, FISHES, ETC.

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### THE LION.



To the Lion the title of the King of the Beasts is universally allowed. It was, however, originally conferred at a period when strength, courage, and the power of spreading terror were considered as paramount qualities. Had the palm been given, as it ought always to be, to sagacity and to mildness, the sovereignty over the animal race would have been awarded to the half-reasoning elephant. It must, nevertheless, be confessed that, of all the carnivorous

quadrupeds, the Lion, whether considered with respect to his appearance or to his conduct, has the best claim to the dignity which has been bestowed on him. He is not, like some of his genus, a mere sanguinary destroyer; but is capable, in a very high degree, of forbearance, generosity, and even affliction.

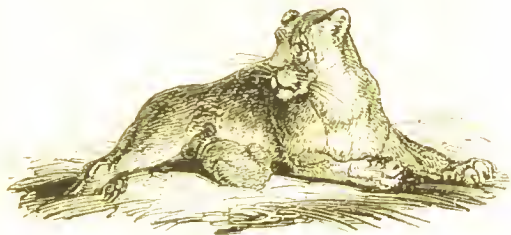
The Lion is a native of Africa and Asia, and sometimes grows to the length of six or eight feet, but is usually not more than half that length. He is a long-lived animal; having been known to attain the age of seventy. He has a striking figure, a bold look, a majestic gait, a terrific voice, and a compact well proportioned form. Such is his strength, that he can break the back of a horse with a single stroke of his paw, and throw a strong man to the ground with the sweep of his tail, and he is no less agile than strong. He has a very broad face surrounded with a long mane, the eyes are bright and fiery, and the tongue is beset with prickles as hard as a cat's claws. The hair on the hinder parts of the body is short and smooth, and its general colour a pale yellow, inclining to white beneath.

The roaring of the Lion is so loud, that when heard in the night, and reechoed by the mountains, it resembles distant thunder. This roar is a deep hollow growl: but when enraged, he has a different cry, which is short, broken, and reiterated. This is always excited by opposition; and upon those occasions, when the Lion summons up all his terrors for the combat, nothing can be more formidable. He then lashes his sides with his long tail, his mane seems to rise, and stand like bristles round his head; the skin and muscles of his face are all in agitation; his huge eyebrows half cover his glaring eyeballs; he discovers his formidable teeth and tongue, and extends his claws, which appear almost as long as a man's fingers. Prepared in this manner for war, even the boldest of the human kind are daunted at his approach; and



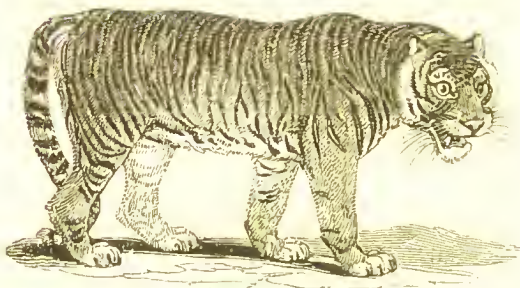
there are no animals, excepting the elephant, the rhinoceros, the tiger, and the hippopotamus, that will venture singly to engage him, which rarely happens, except with the tiger; for the Lion is in general the undisputed master of the forest.

### THE LIONESS.



IN all her dimensions, the Lioness is about one-third less than the male, and is destitute of that mane which is such an ornament to him. Though less powerful, and, in general, less mischievous than the lion, she surpasses him in ferocity when she has to make provision for her young. She goes five months, and usually brings forth in the most sequestered places: and when she fears to have her retreat discovered, she often hides her tracks, by retracing her ground, or by brushing them out with her tail. Sometimes also, when her apprehensions are great, she transports her offspring from one place to another; and, if obstructed, defends them with determined courage, and fights to the last extremity. The young ones, four or five in number, when first brought forth, are about the size of a pug dog, harmless, pretty, and playful: they continue at the teat nearly twelve months, and are about five years in coming to perfection. In a state of confinement, the Lioness never produces more than two whelps.

## THE TIGER.



IF beauty could give precedence, the Tiger, which the ancients considered as the peacock of quadrupeds, would undoubtedly be ranked as the first of beasts. The glossy smoothness of his hair, the extreme blackness of the streaks with which he is marked, and the bright yellow colour of the ground which they diversify, cannot fail of exciting the admiration of every beholder; while his slender, delicate, and truly elegant form bespeaks extreme swiftness and agility. This, however, is all that can be said in his praise. In size he exceeds the lion, which he will not shrink from attacking; but he has none of the noble qualities of the lion. He delights in blood, and seems to kill for the mere pleasure of killing. His strength is so enormous that he can carry off a horse or a buffalo, without his speed being apparently diminished by his burthen. He has even been known to drag out of a quagmire a buffalo, which several men had been unable to move.

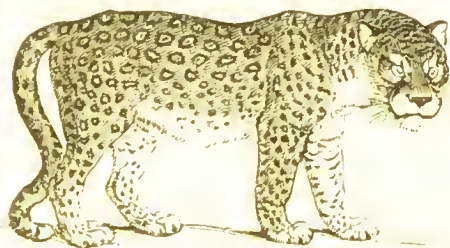
The Tiger's method of taking his prey is, in general, by concealing himself, and springing suddenly on his victim; and it is said, that if he misses his object, or is unexpectedly repulsed, he makes off, without repeating the attempt. He expresses his resentment in

the same manner as the lion ; moving the muscles and skin of his face, showing his teeth, and shrieking in the most frightful tone ; his voice, however, is very different from that of the lion ; being rather a scream than a roar, and when he springs on his prey it is said to be inexpressibly hideous.

The female produces four or five young at a litter. If they be taken from her, she pursues the spoiler with incredible rage : he, in order to save a part, drops one of them, with which she immediately returns to her den, and again pursues him ; he then drops another, and by the time she has returned with that, he generally escapes with the remainder.

The marshy islands of the Ganges and the Indies, harbour great numbers of Tigers. They are also common on the borders of Tartary, and in other parts of oriental Asia. Their skins are held in high estimation all over the East ; particularly in China. In Europe, however, they are but seldom met with, and not so highly prized ; being deemed much inferior to those of the panther and leopard.

### THE PANTHER.

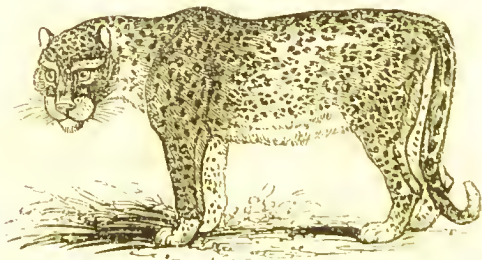


THE Panther resembles the tiger in its habits, and the leopard in its skin. Like the tiger it has an insatiable thirst of blood, and an untameable ferocity ; like the

leopard its skin is spotted, but is less beautiful than the skin of that animal. The Panther is usually more than six feet long, independent of the tail, which is about three feet in length. His hair is short, sleek, and mossy, and his colour is, in general, of a bright tawny yellow, elegantly marked with black spots, disposed in circles of four or five each, with a single spot in the centre: his chest and belly are white. He has short and pointed ears, fierce and restless eyes, a strong harsh cry, and a savage aspect. So rapid are his movements that few animals can escape him, and such is his agility that he climbs trees in pursuit of his prey, and is sure of seizing his victim. The flesh of animals is said to be his favourite food, but when pressed by hunger he makes his attacks without discrimination.

In the time of the Romans, Panthers appear to have been very numerous, and at present the species is said to extend from Barbary to the remotest parts of Guinea.

### THE LEOPARD.



THIS animal is about four feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which commonly measures two feet and a half. It has a much more beautiful coat than the panther, the yellow being more brilliant, and the spots not dis-

posed in rings, but circular clusters, of four or five spots, which bear a considerable resemblance to the print of the animal's foot in the sand. The Leopard delights in impervious forests, and spares neither man nor beast. It is a native of Senegal, Guinea, and the interior parts of Africa; and is also found in some parts of China, and among the mountains of Caucasus, from Persia to India.

### THE JAGUAR.

THE Jaguar, or Tiger of South America, is about the size of a wolf; of a brownish yellow colour, interspersed on the upper parts with streaks and open oblong spots of black: the thighs and legs are also variegated with black spots without central spaces. The breast and belly are whitish. His disposition, like that of the panther and leopard, is fierce and sanguinary, but his cowardice is equal to his ferocity. He is so strong that he can easily carry off a sheep or a deer, and overthrow the largest wild boar by a single stroke of his paw. He is an excellent climber, and has been known to ascend the smooth bark of a tree the lowest branch of which was between forty and fifty feet from the ground.

### THE COUGAR.

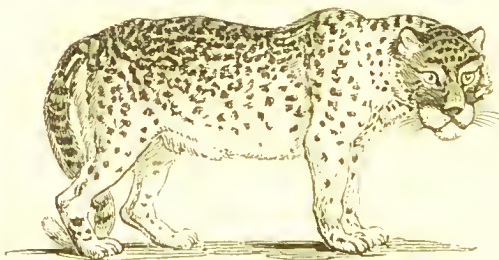
THIS is a South American animal, somewhat resembling the tiger in appearance, and still more in ferocity. It has a small head, long tail, and short hair. Its fur is of a lively red, intermixed with a few blackish tints, excepting the chin, neck, and inferior parts of the body, which are whitish. It is extremely agile, and the length of its legs enables it to run rapidly. The Indians hunt it for its skin, and the flesh is affirmed by some persons to be equal to veal.

## THE OCELOT.



THIS animal, which is sometimes called the Tiger-cat, or Catamountain, is an American quadruped, about four feet in length, from the nose to the insertion of the tail. In form it resembles a cat; but its tail is proportionably shorter, and its robe more beautifully variegated. The fur is of a reddish hue, adorned with black spots and streaked, of an oblong figure on the back and sides, and round on the belly and paws. This animal is exceedingly ferocious, yet cowardly, and prefers blood to flesh, in consequence of which its victims are numerous.

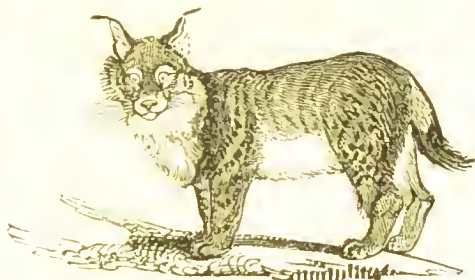
## THE OUNCE.



THE Ounce is of a much smaller size than the panther, as it seldom exceeds three feet and a half in length:

its hair, however, is much longer than that of the panther, and its tail still more so. The upper part of his body is of a tawny white; the lower of an ash colour, and he is sprinkled all over with numerous irregular black marks. His teeth and claws have great sharpness and strength. The Ounee inhabits Barbary, Persia, Hyrcania, and China, and is tamed by the Orientals and used in the chase of hares and antelopes. In five or six bounds it seldom fails to secure the game. Panthers, leopards, and Ounees were anciently dedicated to Bacchus.

### THE LYNX.



THE Lynx is an inhabitant of most of the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America. It is four feet in length, and differs from the panther tribe by the shortness of its tail, which does not exceed six inches. The ears are erect, with a long pencil of black hair at the tips. On the upper part of the body its fur is of a pale gray, with a reddish tinge, obscurely marked with small dusky spots. Underneath it is white.

It climbs the highest trees of the forest, and conceals itself among the branches, in order to watch for weasels, ermins, squirrels, and other animals. It also commits great devastations among the flocks, and frequently destroys vast numbers of hares and fallow

deer. Its sight is so acute that the ancients believed it to have the faculty of seeing through stone walls; and it appears to be certain that it can distinguish its prey at a greater distance than any other carnivorous animal.

### THE SERVAL.



THE Serval is a beautiful but wild and voracious quadruped, resembling the panther in its spots, but the lynx in the shortness of its tail, in its size, and in its strong-built form. It is seldom seen on the ground, but lives chiefly in trees, where it makes its nest and breeds its young. Birds are its principal food, and in pursuit of them it leaps from tree to tree with all the agility of the monkey or squirrel. It is a native of the mountains of India.

### THE CARACAL.

IN size, in form, and even in the singularity of being tufted at the tips of the ears, the Caracal is like the lynx: but it has a longer tail, rougher and shorter hair, a more lengthened snout, and a fiercer look and disposition. It is to be found only in hot climates; where it generally attends the lion, the ounce, and the panther; and subsists almost entirely on the refuse of their prey.



## THE WILD CAT.



THE Wild Cat may not improperly be denominated the British Tiger, it being the fiercest and most destructive of our animals. Its head is larger, and its limbs are stronger than those of the domestic cat, which, indeed it generally exceeds in size. The greater length of its fur also adds to its apparent magnitude. Its colour is a pale yellowish gray, which is diversified with dusky stripes: those on the back running longitudinally, and those on the sides transversely, and in a curved direction. The tail is barred with dusky rings. Wild Cats are to be found in the mountainous parts of Scotland and Ireland, and in the woods, bordering on the lakes of the North of England. It is dangerous merely to wound them, as they will turn on their assailant, and have strength enough to render themselves formidable. The females usually produce four young ones at a litter.

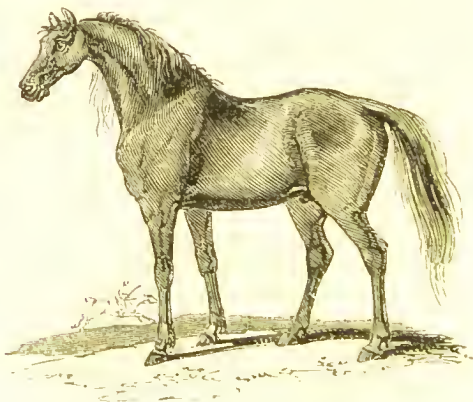
## THE DOMESTIC CAT.



THE Domestic Cat, which is obviously the wild cat reclaimed, is the only one of the feline race the services

of which man has yet been able to turn to account. Even now, generally speaking, these animals have but a slight affection for the person with whom they live ; their attachment being rather to the house than to the owner. Yet their figure, their tricks, their graceful motions, and the beauty of their skins, render them almost universal favourites. When young, they are exceedingly playful, but with age they acquire much gravity, and often an increase of savageness. They are active, cleanly, delicate, and voluptuous, fond of ease, and of reposing on soft substances. In the day time they see with difficulty, the pupil of the eye being then contracted by the redundancy of light, but in the evening they enjoy perfect vision. Their whiskers seem to bear some analogy to the antennæ of moths and butterflies, to enable them to ascertain the size and depth of whatever apertures they examine. The female goes with young fifty-six days, has usually four or five at a litter, and is a most affectionate mother.

### THE HORSE.



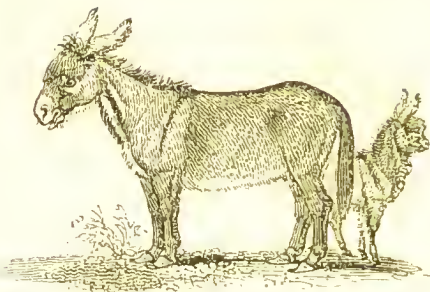
Of all the animals which man has subjugated to his purposes the Horse is the most noble and the most useful.

With less sagacity than the elephant, he still possesses that quality in a high degree, and is generous, mild, and even affectionate in his nature. The numerous services which he is capable of performing are too well known to render it necessary to enumerate them here. Which is the original country of the Horse it is not easy to ascertain; Arabia, where he exists in the highest perfection, seems to have the fairest claim, but he is to be found in almost every country of the globe, except within the Arctic circle. Numerous herds of these animals are seen wild among the Tartars: they are of a small breed, remarkably fleet, and capable of eluding their most vigilant pursuers. They will not admit a strange animal, though of their own kind, into their herd; but on a tame Horse attempting to associate with them, they instantly surround him, and compel him to provide for his safety by a precipitate flight.

The Horses of South America, on the contrary, which are descended from the Andalusian race, and live in herds of as many as ten thousand, use all their efforts to seduce the domestic Horses to join them, and with such effect that travellers are frequently stopped on their journey.

For size and beauty the English Horses are now become superior to those of every other part of the world, and are capable of performing what no others ever could attain to. By a judicious mixture of the several kinds, and by our superior skill in management, they are known to excel the Arabian in size and swiftness; to be more durable than the Barb, and more hardy than the Persian. An ordinary racer will go at the rate of a mile in two minutes, and we had one instance, in the famous Childers, of still greater rapidity; he having frequently been known to move above eighty-two feet and a half in a second, or almost a mile in one minute; and he has run round the course at Newmarket, which is very little less than four miles, in six minutes and forty seconds.

## THE ASS.

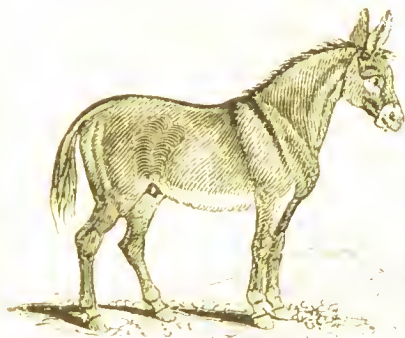


WERE the race of horses to cease to exist, that of the serviceable but ill used Ass would soon acquire no trifling value. Though less beautiful than the horse, the Ass, when properly kept, is a handsome animal; he is much stronger, in proportion, and much more hardy than his favoured rival; and has the additional advantages of being less subject to disease, and capable of living upon very humble fare. It is only in the article of water that he can be said to be dainty; of that he will drink only the cleanest. He is three or four years in coming to perfection, and lives till twenty, or twenty-five; he sleeps much less than the horse, and never lies down for that purpose, unless greatly fatigued. The female goes above eleven months with young, and never produces more than one foal at a time, to which she is said to be so fondly attached that she will rush through fire or water to protect or rejoin it.

When very young, the Ass is sprightly, but he soon loses that quality through ill treatment; and becomes slow, stupid, and headstrong. He is sometimes greatly attached to his owner; whom he scents at a distance, and plainly distinguishes from others in a crowd. When overloaded, he shows his sense of his master's

injustice, by hanging down his head and lowering his ears; and when too hard pressed, he opens his mouth, and draws back his lips, in a very disagreeable manner. He walks, trots, and gallops like a horse; but, though he sets out freely at first, he is soon tired of rapid motion, and then no beating will compel him to mend his pace. The Spanish Ass is the finest variety of the species.

### THE MULE.



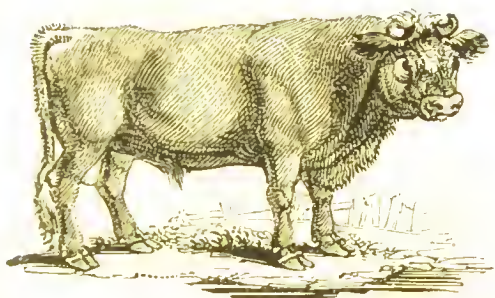
THE Mule is an intermediate creature, springing from the union of the ass with the mare; and it accordingly inherits the small legs and handsome shape of the latter, and the long ears and cross on the back, which characterize the former. In obstinacy it surpasses its male parent; but it is valuable for its sureness of foot, which enables it to pass with safety along the most tremendous precipices, if left to the guidance of its own instinct. The Mule is fond of handsome trappings, and lives longer than either the horse or the ass. Nature denies to it the power of continuing its race.

## THE ZEBRA.



THE Zebra is at once one of the most elegant and the most untameable of animals. Its skin is as smooth as satin, and adorned with elegant stripes, like ribbons, which are brown on a yellowish white ground in the male, and in the female are black on a white ground. The body is round and plump, and the legs of a delicate smallness. The voice of this creature is thought to have a distant resemblance to the sound of a post horn. The Zebra is chiefly found in the southern parts of Africa; whole herds are often seen grazing in those extensive plains that lie near the Cape of Good Hope, and a penalty of fifty rix dollars is inflicted on any person who shoots one of them. Such of them as are caught alive are presented to the governor. Several have been brought to England, but, except in one instance, they have all displayed great wildness, and even ferocity. The exception was in that which was burnt some years ago at Exeter Change. It would allow young children to be put upon its back, and was once ridden from the Lyceum to Pimlico; but it was bred and reared in Portugal, from parents half reclaimed. In several other cases, Zebras have attempted to injure spectators, and have not even spared their keepers.

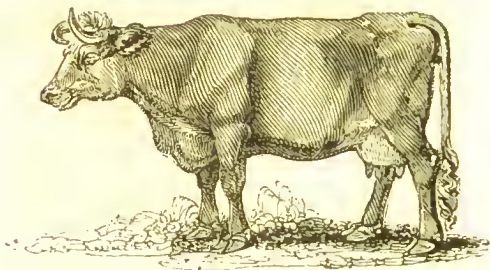
## THE BULL.



IN stature the Bull equals the horse, but he is much stronger made in all parts of his body, particularly about the neck and head ; his horns are thick and large, and when enraged, he gores and tosses both man and beast. This animal is very short-lived for its size and strength, seldom exceeding sixteen years. He arrives to the greatest perfection in this country, its climate and the verdure of our fields being most congenial to his constitution.

The pains taken by the English to bring their horned cattle to perfection has been attended with complete success ; for by mixing them with foreign breeds, they have increased both their beauty and their strength. The Lincolnshire breed, so famous for their size, derive that perfection from those of Holstein ; and the large horned cattle that are bred in some parts of England, were originally imported from Poland.

## . THE COW.

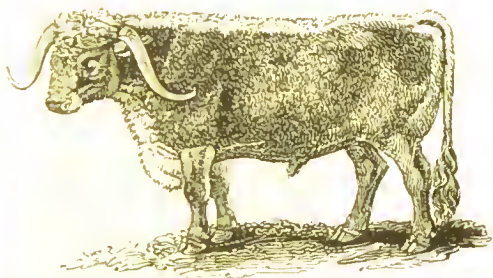


THIS animal is the female of the bull, and resembles him in respect to size and stature, but is shorter-lived; of all quadrupeds she seems the most liable to alteration from the quality of the pasture. Thus Africa is remarkable for the largest and the smallest cattle of this kind, as are also Poland, Switzerland, and several other parts of Europe. Among the Eluth Tartars, where the pastures are remarkably luxuriant, the Cow becomes so large that few men can reach the tip of its shoulders: but in France, where the animal is stinted in its food, and driven from the richest pasturage, it greatly degenerates.

The Cow has seldom more than one calf at a time, and goes about nine months. There is scarcely a part of this animal that is not useful to mankind; and, of late years, benefit has been derived even from one of its diseases, by the introduction of vaccinc inoculation, an antidote for that horrible and deadly disorder, the small pox.



## THE OX.



THIS creature, which, of course, bears a family likeness to the bull, is of a sluggish nature, very strong, yet gentle, and is of great use in husbandry, such as drawing the plough, waggon, cart, &c. His flesh is excellent food, and his hide is made into leather for several uses. There are oxen in all parts of the world; those of Egypt, about the river Nile, are as white as snow, of exceeding stature, yet so meek and gentle, that they are easily governed by men.

## KYLOE OX.



THIS is a Scotch breed of cattle, chiefly of a black colour, with thick hides, much hair, and frequently

large and long horns. They fatten well, and frequently attain to a great size. Mr. Culley mentions one which weighed 1410½ pounds. The name of Kyløe is said to be derived from their having crossed the Kyles, or ferries, with which the Highlands of Scotland abound.

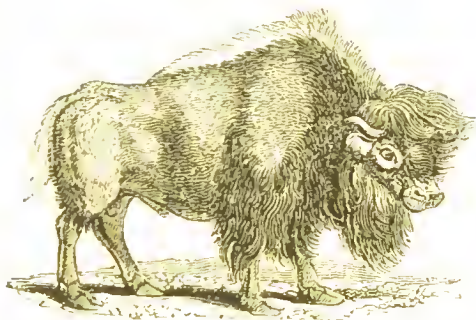
### THE ARNEE.

THIS animal, which is an inhabitant of various parts of India north of Bengal, far exceeds in size any of the cattle tribe that has hitherto been discovered; it being from twelve to fifteen feet in height. The horns, which are full two feet in length, are erect and semilunar, flattened, and annularly wrinkled, with smooth, round, approaching points. The Arnee is seldom seen within the European settlements, but a very young one was picked up alive in the Ganges, some years ago, which was as big as an immensely large bullock, and weighed nearly three quarters of a ton. A British officer, who found one in the woods in the country above Bengal, describes it as a bold and daring animal, and its form as seeming to partake of the horse, the bull, and the deer. Some of the native princes are said to keep Arnees for parade, under the name of fighting bullocks.

### THE ZEBU.

THE Zebu, or Barbary Cow, is somewhat like the bison, having a hump on its shoulders, from twenty to forty pounds in weight. They are often saddled like horses, and are also used in drawing chariots, carts, &c. Instead of a bit, a ring or small cord is passed through the cartilage of the nostrils, which is tied to a larger cord, and serves as a bridle.

## THE BISON.

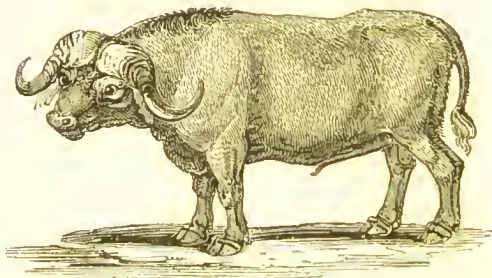


THIS formidable animal is a variety of the ox tribe. It inhabits both parts of the American continent; and in North America immense herds are frequently seen. The fore parts of the body are very thick and strong; the hinder are comparatively slender; the body is covered in many parts with long shaggy hair; the horns are short, rounded, and pointing outwards; and on the shoulders is a high protuberance, which is the distinctive mark of the Bison. This hunch is considered as a great delicacy by the Indians.

These animals are so ferocious, that they cannot be safely pursued, except in forests, where there are trees large enough to conceal the hunters: they are, therefore, generally taken in pitfalls covered with boughs of trees and grass, where they are easily overcome and slain. They commonly range in droves, feeding in the open savannahs morning and evening; and reposing during the sultry part of the day on the shady banks of rivulets or streams of water. Sometimes they leave so deep an impression of their feet on the moist sand, as to be thus traced and shot by the Indians: but on these occasions, the utmost precaution is re-

quisite; since their sense of smelling is extremely acute, and when slightly wounded, they become perfectly infuriate, and certain death awaits the assailant. Yet, notwithstanding their wildness in a state of nature, there is reason to believe that they might be domesticated without much difficulty, and their immense strength would render them a valuable acquisition to mankind. The experiment has been tried in America, and it has fully succeeded. There is something affecting in the fondness of the young Bison for its dam. If the mother be killed, the calf, instead of attempting to escape, follows the hunter who is carrying away the remains of its parent, and manifests strong signs of sorrow.

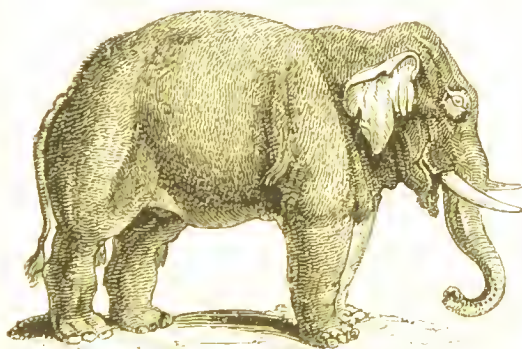
### THE BUFFALO.



THOUGH the Buffalo bears a great resemblance in form to the common ox, yet it varies from it in being larger, having a head bigger in proportion, a higher forehead, a longer muzzle, and horns differently shaped. It is also said that the two animals have an antipathy to each other. The general colour is blackish, except the forehead and the tip of the tail, which are of a dusky white. Africa and the warmer parts of India seem to be the native countries of the Buffalo, but they are

naturalized in Europe, particularly in Italy, where they are extensively used, and constitute an essential part of the riches and food of the poor. They are employed in the labours of agriculture; butter and cheese is made from their milk; their flesh affords a pleasant and wholesome nutriment; their skin is converted into a strong and durable leather; and their horns are of a fine grain, and susceptible of a high polish. The Buffalo is fond of wallowing in the mud, and is an excellent swimmer. He will also sometimes dive to the depth of ten or twelve feet, for the purpose of tearing up with his horns the aquatic plants, which he eats while he swims.

### THE ELEPHANT.



The Elephant is a native of Asia and Africa, and is found from seven to twelve feet high, but it seldom grows to more than nine or ten feet. In external appearance it is one of the least attractive of animals; its body being thick, huge, ash-coloured, and covered with a callous skin devoid of hair; its legs ill shaped, and seemingly not qualified for motion; its neck short and stiff; its eyes exceedingly small in proportion to

its dimensions; its ears large and pendulous; and its trunk of an anomalous and almost ludicrous appearance. But when we come to consider his history, our prejudices vanish, and our admiration is excited by the wonderful degree of intelligence which this gigantic creature displays.

Though the eyes of the Elephant are diminutive when compared with his enormous bulk, yet they are capable of a variety of expression which is not to be found in those of any other animal. He is also remarkable for his acuteness of hearing. He can raise and move his ears with perfect facility, so as to wipe his eyes and protect them from flies and other annoyances; and he delights in music, to the measure of which he readily learns to move. His sense of smelling likewise is exquisite; he is fond of the odour of flowers, and will gather them, and gratify himself by inhaling their fragrance.

But it is in the sense of touch that this animal excels all others of the brute creation, and perhaps even man himself. The organ of this sense lies wholly in the trunk, which, in fact, is only the snout lengthened to a great extent, hollow like a pipe, and terminating in two openings, or nostrils, like those of a hog. This fleshy tube is capable of being moved in every direction, and at the very point of it, just above the nostrils, there is an extension of the skin, formed like a finger, and indeed, answering all the purposes of one: for, with the rest of the extremity of the trunk, it is capable of assuming different forms, and consequently of being adapted to the minutest objects. By means of this, the Elephant can take a pin from the ground, untie the knots of a rope, unlock a door, and even write with a pen. Hence this instrument appears to be useful in most of the purposes of life: it is an organ of smelling, of touching, and of suction; and not only conduces to the animal's comforts, but also serves for its ornament and defence.

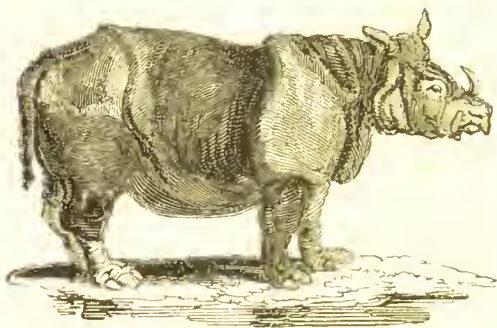
The enormous tusks of this animal, being useless for masticating, may be considered only as weapons of defence. They are two in number, proceeding from the upper jaw, and become so extremely heavy as the animal grows old, that it is sometimes obliged to make holes in the sides of its stall, to rest them in, and ease itself of the fatigue of their support.

Although the Elephant is the strongest as well as the largest of quadrupeds, in a state of nature, it is neither fierce nor formidable. No less pacific than brave, it never abuses its power, and only exerts its strength for its own protection, or that of its community. In its native deserts the Elephant is rarely seen alone, but appears to be a friendly social creature. The herds generally consist of from forty to a hundred. The oldest of the company conducts the band; that which is next in seniority brings up the rear; the young, the weak, and the sickly, fall into the centre.

When brought under the dominion of man, the Elephant becomes the most gentle and obedient of all animals. It soon conceives an attachment for the person that attends it, caresses him, obeys him, and even seems to anticipate his desires. All its motions are regulated, and its actions seem to partake of its magnitude; being grave, majestic, and secure. It is quickly taught to kneel down, to receive its rider; it suffers itself to be arrayed in harness; and draws either chariots, cannon, or shipping, with surprising perseverance and docility; provided that it be not beaten without a cause, and that its master appears pleased with its exertions; otherwise, if ill treated, he becomes furious and destructive.

It is endued with acute feelings of pride and shame; for, on being taunted by its guide, in consequence of its exertions having failed to remove an obstacle too powerful for its strength, it has been known instantly to renew its exertions with such violence as to occasion it to drop down dead on the spot.

## THE RHINOCEROS.



THE Rhinoceros is a native of India, Ceylon, Java, Sumatra, and several parts of Ethiopia, and is usually found about twelve feet long, nearly the same in circumference, and from five to seven feet high. Few animals are so remarkably formed. Its head is furnished with a hard and solid horn, projecting from the snout, sometimes above three feet in length; and were it not for this, that part would resemble the head of a hog: the upper lip, however, is much longer in proportion, and very pliable, serving to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth: the ears are large, erect, and pointed, and the eyes small and piercing. The skin is naked, rough, covered with a kind of tubercles, and so extremely thick and hard, except under the belly, as to turn the edge of a scimitar, or to resist a musket ball: it is of a dirty brown colour, and lies upon the body in folds, after a very peculiar manner. The belly hangs low; the legs are short, strong, and thick; and the hoofs are divided into three parts, each pointing forward.

The horn of this quadruped is a formidable weapon,



growing from the solid bone, and placed so as to inflict deadly wounds. The Elephant, the boar, and the buffalo are obliged to strike transversely; but the Rhinoceros employs all his force with every blow; so that the tiger will more willingly attack any other animal of the forest, than one whose strength is so justly employed. The Rhinoceros, however, except when assailed, is of a quiet inoffensive disposition.

There is another animal of this kind, named the TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS, differing from the preceding in the appearance of its skin; which is less hard, and, instead of large and regularly marked folds, has merely a slight wrinkle across the shoulders and on the hinder parts, with a few fainter wrinkles on the sides; so that, when compared with the common Rhinoceros, it appears almost smooth. The principal distinction, however, consists in the nose being furnished with two horns, one of which is smaller than the other, and situated above it. Both the species are herbivorous animals.

### THE BEAR.



THE three principal species of the Bear tribe are the common or Brown Bear, the American or Black Bear, and the White or Polar Bear. The first of these spe-

cies is the most numerous and widely spread. It is found in various parts of Europe, and in the East Indies.

The Brown Bear is a solitary animal, inhabiting chasms and precipices, and frequently choosing for its abode the hollow of some tree; there it remains for some months in the winter without provisions, subsisting on the exuberance of the flesh which it acquired in the summer. The female generally prepares a bed in the hollow of a rock, and brings forth in winter.

The Black Bears are common in the northern districts of America, whence they occasionally migrate southward in search of food. They usually choose for their places of retreat the hollow trunk of an old cypress tree. When they are hunted fire is used to drive them from the tree; in which case the old one generally issues out first, and is shot by the hunters: and the young ones as they descend are caught in a noose, and are either kept, or killed for provision. Their hams and paws are considered a great delicacy.

The White or Greenland Bear differs greatly both in figure and dimensions from those already mentioned; and though it preserves, in general, the external form of its more southern kindred, yet it attains almost three times the size. It sometimes grows to nearly twelve feet in length. Their ferocity is fully commensurate with their magnitude; they have been known to seize sailors and devour them in the presence of their comrades. They principally live on fish, seals, and dead whales: they seldom remove far from the shore; sometimes, however, they are seen, on ice-floats, several leagues at sea, and are often transported in this manner to Iceland: where they no sooner arrive than all the natives are in arms to receive them.

## THE COATIMONDI.



IN the general form of its body the Coatimondi is not unlike the racoon, but it has a longer snout, which, like the trunk of the elephant, is moveable in all directions. Its eyes are small, but lively. The tail is marked with rings of black, and the body is covered with a short fur, which is rough on the back. When it sleeps it rolls itself into a lump, and often remains immoveable for fourteen or fifteen hours together. It may be tamed, and then becomes exceedingly playful and amusing.

## THE SLOTH.



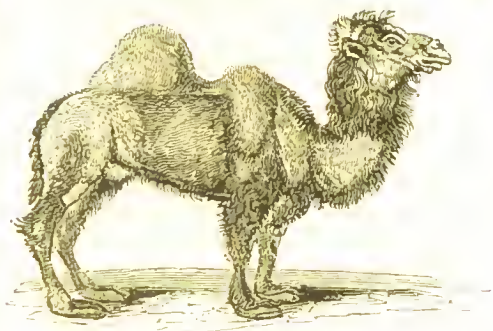
OF the Sloth there are only three species, none of which are natives of Europe. There are two principal kinds, distinguished from each other by having three or two toes, the former of which is an inhabitant of South America. They are the most inactive of all living creatures. They have a clumsy form, languid and heavy eyes, and a countenance so expressive of

misery as to excite compassion. The species represented in the engraving has three claws upon each foot, and a short tail. Its fur is long and coarse, somewhat resembling dried grass; the month extremely wide, and the legs and feet set on awkwardly, in an oblique direction, the sole of the foot seldom touching the ground, so that a few paces often require a journey of a week. When the animal has to make a step forward, it scrapes on the back of the nails against the surface, and wheeling the limb circularly about, yet still touching the ground, it at length places its foot in a progressive position; the other three limbs are brought about with the same difficulty, and thus it seldom moves above three feet in an hour. In fact, it seldom attempts to change its place till it is impelled by the severest stings of hunger.

The Sloth subsists wholly on vegetable food, and, as it is a great eater, it generally strips a tree of all its verdure in less than a fortnight. It then devours the bark, and thus in a short time, destroys the very source of its support. When this is the case, it either descends, or lets itself drop to the ground, the thickness of its skin and length of its hair protecting it from injury; and it then prepares for another tedious journey to some neighbouring tree, which is soon killed like the former. Its power of abstinence is very remarkable, and the strength of its feet so great, that whatever it seizes on cannot possibly be freed from its claws. It moves chiefly in the night, and at that season it utters its plaintive cry, which ascends and descends in perfect tune, through the hexachord, or six successive musical intervals.

The Two-toed Sloth, differs from the preceding animal in being considerably larger, much more active, and having only two claws upon the fore feet: it has also a longer snout, very different fur, and forty-six ribs, while the other has only twenty-eight. In every thing else it resembles the Three-toed Sloth. It is a native of the East Indies and Ceylon.

## THE CAMEL.

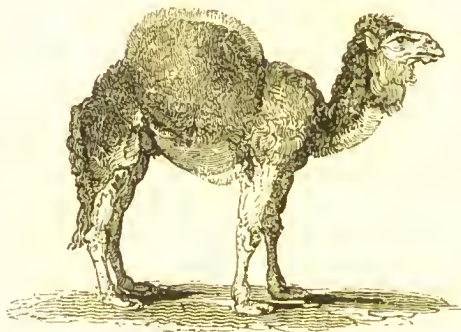


THE two principal species of Camels are the Bactrian, or Two-humped Camel, to which the name is usually given, and the Arabian, or Single-humped Camel, which is called the Dromedary. The Bactrian Camel is from five to seven feet high at the shoulder, is a somewhat larger animal than the Arabian Camel, and, in proportion to its size, has shorter legs. The body is covered with dusky, or ash-coloured hair. It has a short head, small ears, and a long bending neck; and is rendered remarkable not only by the humps on its back, but by large callosities at the bottom of the breast, on the knees, and on the inside of each leg. The feet are flat and tough, divided above, but not quite through; which formation enables the animal to traverse the sandy deserts, without being subject to chaps in the hoof.

In Arabia and other countries where the Camel is trained to useful purposes, it is considered as a sacred animal, without which the natives could neither traffic, travel, nor subsist: its milk forms a considerable part of their nourishment; they clothe themselves with its hair, which is shed regularly once a year; and on the approach of enemies, they may, by mounting their

Camels, flee to the distance of a hundred miles in a single day. It must also be observed that these quadrupeds are capable of such long abstinence, that they will travel for many days without a supply of water, and with no other food than a few dates, some small balls of barley meal, or the few thorny plants which they can find in the sandy deserts. This, however, partly results from the mode of bringing them up, and partly from the circumstance of the second stomach being of a construction which enables it to hold a greater quantity of water than is needful for the present use of the animal.

### THE DROMEDARY.



IN the preceding article we have stated the principal differences which distinguish the Camel from the Dromedary. To these may be added, that the Bactrian Camel is more capable than the Dromedary of supporting cold and moisture. It is to be found as far north as Lake Baikal, and it bears without injury the severity of a Siberian winter, which the Dromedary would be unable to sustain. Attempts have been made to introduce the Camel and Dromedary into our West India islands, but they have not succeeded.

## THE LLAMA.

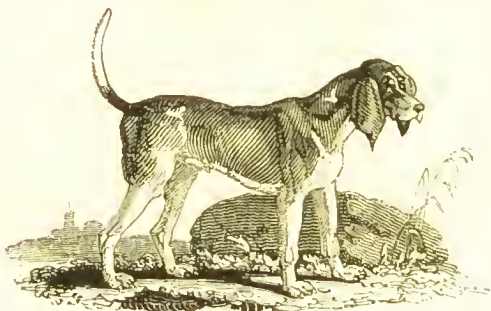


IN the southern division of the new world the Llama serves for the same purpose as the camel in the old. It is a native of the high mountainous districts of Peru, Chili, and other provinces. In height it is about four feet and a half, and in length nearly six feet, from the neck to the tail. It bears in form a general resemblance to the camel, but, instead of a protuberance on the back, it has one on the breast. When it is in its wild state, the hair is coarse, but it becomes fine when the animal is domesticated. Its colour is white, gray, and russet, disposed in spots. They move at a grave pace, and will sometimes travel four or five days before they seem to require repose. They will then rest spontaneously for twenty or thirty hours. On the driver attempting to force them forward by blows, before they choose to proceed, they have been known to kill themselves, by striking their heads against the ground in their rage. They browse the herbage as they travel, and ruminate at night. Their mode of expressing anger is by ejecting their saliva, which has erroneously been supposed to have a corrosive quality.

In their wild state, they associate in immense herds on the highest part of the mountains, and while they are feeding a sentinel is stationed to give warning of any hostile intruder.

The VICUNA, the wool of which is very valuable, is smaller than the Llama, its limbs are more neatly formed, and it has no protuberance on the breast. It is of a reddish brown on the upper part of the body, and whitish on the lower.

### THE BLOODHOUND.



Of all carnivorous quadrupeds, the dog kind must indisputably claim the preference; being the most intelligent, courageous, docile, and domestic attendant on man. Always assiduous in serving his master, and only a friend to his friends, he is indifferent to every one else. Constant in his affections, friendly without interest, and much more mindful of benefits than injuries offered, he is not alienated by unkindness, but even licks the hand that has been just lifted to strike him, and eventually disarms resentment by submissive perseverance.

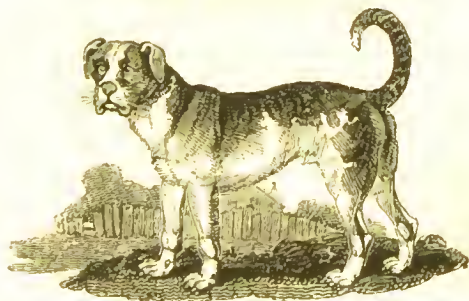
Dogs have six cutting teeth in each jaw; four canine teeth, one on each side, above and below; and six or seven grinders. Their claws have no sheath as those



of cats have, but continue at the point of each toe, without the power of being protruded or retracted. The nose also is longer than in the cat kind; and the body is, in proportion, more strongly made, and covered with hair instead of fur. The variety of these animals, through mixed breeds, is great.

The foremost of this tribe is the Bloodhound, a tall, beautifully formed animal, usually of a reddish or brown colour, which was in high esteem among our ancestors. His employ was to recover any game that had escaped wounded from the hunter, or had been stolen out of the forest; but he was still more serviceable in hunting thieves and robbers by their footsteps. For the latter purpose they are now almost disused in this country; but they are still sometimes employed in the royal forests to track deer stealers, and on such occasions they display an extraordinary sagacity and acuteness of scent. In the Spanish West India islands, however, they are constantly used in the pursuit of criminals, and are accompanied by officers called chasseurs.

### THE MASTIFF.



THIS species of dog is peculiar to our own country. It is nearly of the size of a Newfoundland dog, strong

and active, possessing great sagacity, and is commonly employed as a watch dog. The Mastiff is said seldom to use violence against intruders, unless resisted, and even then he will sometimes only throw down the person, and hold him for hours, without doing him further injury, till he is relieved. He has a large head, with short pendent ears, and thick lips hanging on each side. In the reign of James I. a contest was exhibited between three Mastiffs and a lion, in which the king of beasts was compelled to seek for safety in flight.

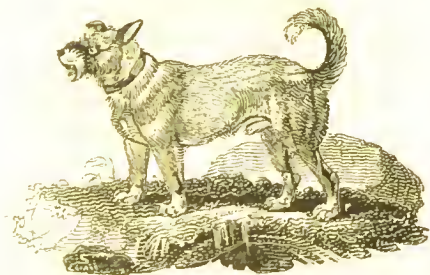
### THE BULLDOG.



THOUGH much less in size than the mastiff, the Bulldog is nearly equal to him in strength, and superior to him in fierceness. Those of the brindled kind are accounted the best. No natural antipathy can exceed that of this animal against the bull. Without barking, he will naturally fly at and seize the fiercest bull; running directly at his head, and sometimes catching hold of his nose, he will pin the bull to the ground; nor can he without great difficulty, be made to quit his hold. Such is his rage, that at a bull fight in the north of England, a brute in the shape of a man wagered, that he would successively cut off the feet of his dog, and that the animal should return to the

attack after each amputation. The horrible experiment was tried, and the wager was won. Two of these dogs, let loose at once, are a match for a bull, three for a bear, and four for a lion.

### THE TERRIER.



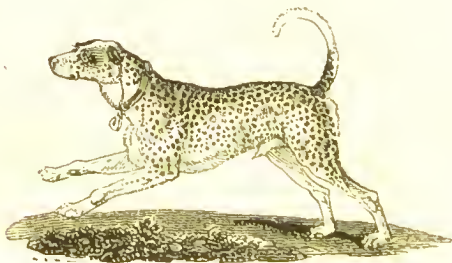
THE Terrier is a small thickset hound, of which there are two varieties; the one with short legs, long back, and commonly of a black or yellowish colour mingled with white; the other more sprightly in appearance, with a shorter body, and the colour reddish brown or black. It has a most acute sense of smelling, and an inveterate enmity to all kinds of vermin. Nor is it excelled by any dog in the quality of courage. It will encounter even the badger with the utmost bravery, though it often receives severe wounds in the contest, which, however, it bears with unshrinking fortitude. As it is very expert in forcing foxes and other game out of their coverts, and is particularly hostile to the fox, it is generally an attendant on every pack of hounds; in which case the choice of the huntsman is not directed by the size of the animal, but by its strength and power of endurance.

## THE HARRIER.



THE Harrier is closely allied to the beagle, though larger, more swift, and vigorous. It is ardent in the chase, and frequently outstrips the fleetest sportsman. A mixed breed, between this and the large terrier, forms a strong, active, and hardy hound, which is used in hunting the otter. It is rough, wire-haired, thick-quartered, long-eared, and thin-shouldered.

## THE COACH DOG.



THIS animal is one of great beauty, its colour being white, elegantly and profusely marked with round

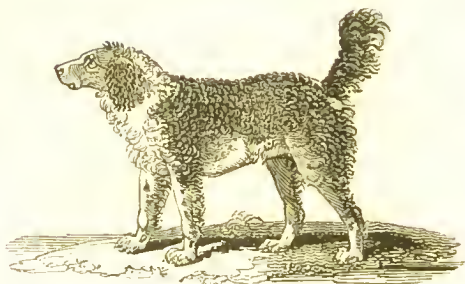
black spots. It has been called, but erroneously, the Danish dog, and Buffon makes it of Bengalian origin, but Pennant declares that it is derived from Dalmatia, in European Turkey. It is indeed, often denominated the Dalmatian dog. By some it is said to be the common harrier of Italy, and to have been known and domesticated in that country for two centuries. Its power of smelling is but indifferent, and it is generally kept in genteel houses as a handsome attendant on a carriage.

### THE SPANISH POINTER



Is derived, as its name implies, from Spain, but has long been naturalized in this country, where great attention has been paid to preserve the breed in all its purity. It is remarkable for the aptness and facility with which it receives instruction, and may be said to be almost self-taught; whilst the English Pointer requires the greatest care and attention in breaking and training for the sport. But, on the other hand, it is less capable than the English Pointer of enduring fatigue. It is chiefly employed in finding partridges, pheasants, &c.

## THE SPANIEL.



THIS beautiful animal is of Spanish extraction, whence it derives its name, and the silky softness of its coat. It is elegant in form, with long pendent ears, and hair gracefully curled or waved. Its scent is keen, and it possesses in the fullest perfection the good qualities of sagacity, docility, and attachment. So strong is the latter, that instances have been known in which the animal has died of grief for the loss of its master. Dash, a Spaniel, belonging to the gamekeeper of the Rev. Mr. Corsellis, would not quit his master's bed after his death; being taken away, he perpetually returned to the room, and daily visited the grave; and, in spite of all the kindness that was shown to him, he died at the end of fourteen days. The Land Spaniel may be taught a variety of tricks, such as fetching, carrying, and diving. He is employed in setting for partridges, quails, &c. and his steadiness and patience, in the performance of this task, are worthy of admiration. There is another variety of this kind called the SLATER, used in hawking, to spring the game; but it is much inferior in speed and perseverance to the former.

## THE WATER SPANIEL.



OF all the dog kind, this animal seems to be the most docile, and the most attached to man. Many other species are impatient of correction; but the Water Spaniel, though fierce to strangers, bears blows and ill usage from his master, with undiminished affection. This creature is well calculated for hunting of otters, ducks, &c. Watching the stroke of the piece, and perceiving the game that is shot, he instantly swims after it, and brings it to his master. He will fetch and carry at command, and will dive to the bottom of deep water in search of a piece of money, which he will bring out, and deposit at the feet of the person by whom he was sent. Cowper has recorded, in a pleasing poem, an instance of sagacity and of a desire to gratify a master, which was displayed by his Spaniel Beau. As he was walking by the Ouse, he was desirous to obtain one of the waterlilies, which grew in the river, but was unable to reach it. Beau seemed disposed to assist him, but the poet called him off, and pursued his ramble. On his return, however, Beau rushed into the stream, cropped a lily, and laid it at his master's feet.

## THE ENGLISH SETTER



Is considered as one of the most valuable of our hunting dogs; it being hardy, nimble, and handsome, and possessed of exquisite scent and sagacity. His manner of seeking game is at once correctly and poetically described, in the following lines by Somerville:

“ When autumn smiles, all-beauteous in decay,  
And paints each chequer'd grove with various hues,  
My SETTER ranges in the new-shorn fields,—  
His nose in air creet; from ridge to ridge  
Panting he bounds, his quarter'd ground divides  
In equal intervals, nor careless leaves  
One inch untried: at length the tainted gales  
His nostrils wide inhale: quick joy elates  
His beating heart, which, awed by discipline  
Severe, he dares not own, but cautious creeps  
Low cowering, step by step, at last attains  
His proper distance: there he stops at once,  
And points with his instructive nose upon  
The trembling prey.”

## THE BEAGLE.

THIS is the smallest kind of dog that is used in the chase, and is chiefly employed in hare hunting. It is remarkable for the musical melody of its tone, and the keenness of its scent. Of this dog there are two varieties, the ROUGH BEAGLE and the SMOOTH BEAGLE.



## THE SPRINGER

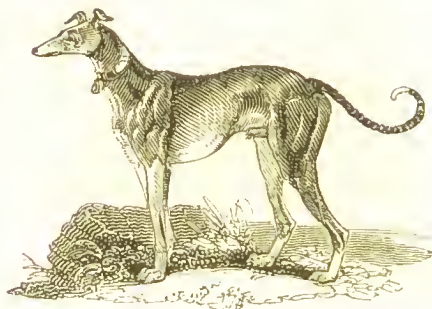


Is a lively and pleasant species of dog ; very expert in raising woodcocks and snipes from their haunts in woods and marshes, through which it ranges with an untirable perseverance. Buffon gives the name of PYRAME to a variety of this dog, which is distinguished by a patch of red on the legs, and another over each eye.

Of the same kind is that elegant little dog, which, in this country, is well known under the appellation of KING CHARLES'S DOG ; as having been the favourite companion of that monarch, who scarcely ever walked out without being attended by several of them. It has a small rounded head, with a short snout, the tail is curved back, the hair is curled, the ears are long, and the feet are webbed.

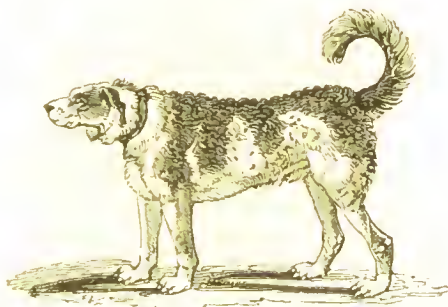
The LARGE WATER DOG is of an analogous breed, but is less handsome. It has curly hair, which bears a great resemblance to wool, and it swims excellently, in consequence of the webs between the toes being much larger than those of most other dogs. It is often kept on board of ships, for the purpose of recovering articles which chance to fall into the water.

## THE GREYHOUND.



THIS elegantly formed animal was once held in such estimation that it was the peculiar companion of a gentleman; who was anciently known by his horse, his hawk, and his Greyhound. In such repute was it, that Canute enacted a law that it should not even be kept by any one who was under the rank of a gentleman. It has a long body, a neat and elongated head, full eye, long mouth, sharp and very white teeth, little ears, with thin gristles in them, a straight neck, and full breast; his fore and hind legs are long and straight; his ribs round, strong, and full of sinews, and taper about the belly. It is the swiftest of the dog kind, and easily trained for the chase when twelve months old. It courses by sight and not by scent, as other hounds do; and is supposed to outlive all the dog tribe. Buffon imagines it to be descended from the Irish Greyhound, only rendered more thin and delicate by the influence of climate. There is a variety of this species, which is called the HIGHLAND GREYHOUND. It is very large, strong, deep-chested, covered with long rough hair, and has the scent and sagacity of the Bloodhound. This kind has become exceedingly scarce.

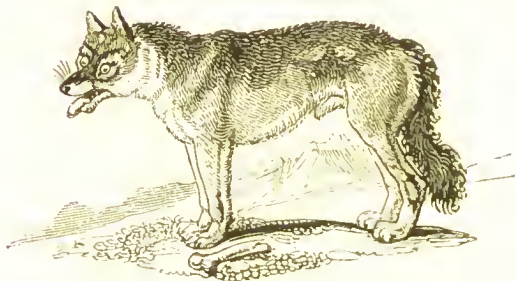
## THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.



THIS animal, which came originally from the island whence it derives its name, has a remarkably pleasing countenance, is exceedingly docile, and of great size and sagacity. In their native country, they are extremely useful to the settlers on the coast, who employ them to bring wood from the interior. Three or four of them, yoked to a sledge, will draw three hundred weight of wood for several miles. In the performance of this task they are so expert as to need no driver. After having delivered their load, they will return to the woods with the empty sledge, and are then rewarded by being fed with dried fish.

The feet of this dog are more palmated than usual; which structure enables it to swim very fast, to dive easily, and to bring up any thing from the bottom of the water. It is, indeed, almost as fond of the water as if it were an amphibious animal. So sagacious is it, and so prompt in lending assistance, that it has saved the lives of numberless persons, who were on the point of drowning; and this circumstance, together with its uniform good temper, has justly rendered it a universal favourite.

## THE WOLF.



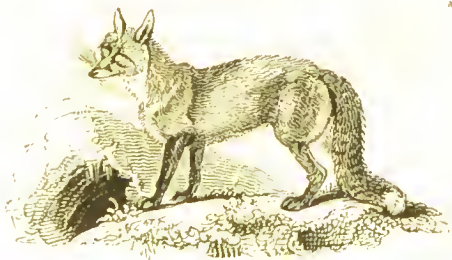
THE Wolf is to be found in almost every country of the temperate and cold regions of the globe. In England they were formerly numerous, but were at length completely extirpated. It was not, however, till towards the latter end of the seventeenth century that the last Wolf was killed in Scotland. This animal, from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, is about three feet and a half long, and is about two feet five inches high. His colour is a mixture of black, brown, and gray; and his hair is extremely rough and hard, but mixed toward the roots with a kind of ash-coloured fur. The eyes open slantingly upwards, in the same direction with the nose, and the colour of the eyeballs is of a fiery green, which gives a fierce and formidable air to the whole visage. The smell of his breath is exceedingly offensive, and his flesh so bad that it is rejected by all other quadrupeds.

Nature has furnished the Wolf with strength, cunning, agility, and every requisite for pursuing, overtaking, and conquering his prey. He is naturally dull and cowardly; but when pressed by hunger, he braves danger, and even ventures to attack those animals which are under the protection of man; such as lambs, sheep, or even dogs themselves. When his necessities are very urgent, he faces certain destruction: he

attacks women and children, and sometimes ventures even to fall upon men; or, becoming furious by continual agitations, he ends his life in madness. If taken young, however, the Wolf may be tamed, and in the eastern countries they are taught various tricks, and are exhibited as spectacles to the people.

The female Wolf goes with young about fourteen weeks, and generally produces five or six at a litter. These she suckles for some time, and teaches them betimes to eat flesh, which she prepares for them by chewing it first herself. She also frequently brings to them live young hares and birds; which she tears in pieces for them. When the cubs are about six weeks, or two months old, their dam leads them to drink, at the trunk of some decayed tree, where the water has settled, or at some pool in the neighbourhood; but on the slightest appearance of danger, she conceals them in the first convenient place, or carries them back to their native den. It is not till they are ten or twelve months old, and until they have completed a new set of teeth, that she abandons them, as being able to shift for themselves.

### THE FOX.



THE Fox, one of the most crafty of beasts of prey, is a native of almost every quarter of the globe. He is slenderer and smaller than the Wolf, not being more than two feet three inches in length. The tail of the

Fox also is comparatively longer, and more bushy; its nose is smaller, and its hair much softer: but its eyes are situated obliquely, like those of the wolf, and are remarkably expressive, and its head is equally large in proportion to its size. It has a strong offensive smell, which is peculiar to the species.

This animal has ever been famous for his cunning and his arts, and his reputation is not undeserved. He generally keeps his kennel at the edge of the wood, and yet within a short distance from some cottage. If he be able to get into the yard, he begins by levelling all the poultry, and carrying off a part of the spoil, hides it at some convenient distance, and again returns to the charge. Taking off another fowl in the same manner, he hides that also, but not in the same place; and this he practices for several times together, until warned to retire by the approach of day, or the noise of the domestics. In the same manner, when he finds birds entangled in springs laid for them by the fowler, he very expertly takes them out of the snare, hides them for three or four days, and remembers where to return to avail himself of the hidden treasure. He also finds out birds' nests, seizes the sitting partridge and the quail, catches young hares and rabbits, and destroys a large quantity of game. In short, nothing that can be eaten seems to come amiss; for when pressed by hunger, he will prey on rats, mice, serpents, toads, lizards, insects, and even vegetables; and those Foxes that live near the sea-coasts are frequently known to subsist on shrimps, crabs, and other shell fish. The hedgehog in vain rolls itself up into a ball, to oppose this determined glutton, and neither the wasp nor the wild bee are secure from his depredations; for though they compel him to retire for a few minutes, he soon rids himself of his opposers by rolling on the ground, and returns to the charge till he eventually compels them to abandon their combs to his voracity.

The she Fox produces but once a year, and seldom

has more than four or five cubs at a litter. To these she is peculiarly attentive; and if she suspects that the place of their retreat has been discovered, and that her young have been disturbed during her absence, she removes them, one after another, in her mouth, and endeavours to find a place of greater security.

### THE ARCTIC FOX.

THIS animal is like the fox in the form of its body, and the length of its tail, but it is more like the canine species in the make of its head, and the position of its eyes. It thus forms a sort of intermediate link between the two kinds. Its hair is softer than that of the common Fox, and thick, tufted, and glossy: but its most striking peculiarity consists in its changing colour; being seen at one season of the year brown and at another perfectly white. It is found only in the Arctic regions, and the islands of the Frozen and Eastern Ocean. Of all animals it is that, perhaps, which is possessed of the largest share of cunning. It burrows like the fox, and is remarked for keeping its kennel very clean; it litters generally about May or June.

### THE JACKALL.



THIS animal is to be found in the hot and temperate parts of Africa and Asia, and resides in forests. It

is about the size of a middling dog, resembling the fox in the hinder parts, particularly the tail, and the wolf in the fore parts, especially the nose. Its legs are shorter than those of the fox, and its colour is a bright yellow; whence it has been called, in Latin, the "golden wolf." In the scale of creation, it seems to rank between the wolf and the dog; as to the savage fierceness of the former it adds the impudent familiarity of the latter. It may, however, be domesticated, and it then has all the fondness and playfulness of the dog, with which it also delights to associate. In its wild state, its cry is a howl mixed with barking, and a lamentation resembling that of human distress. These animals never go alone, but always in packs of from fifty to two hundred. They unite regularly every day, to form a combination against the other inhabitants of the forest; and nothing can escape them; for though content to take up with the smallest quadrupeds, they have courage, thus united, to face the largest. They seem very little afraid of mankind; but pursue their game to the very doors; enter insolently into the sheep-folds, the yards, and the stables; and, if they can find nothing else, they even devour harness, boots, or shoes, and run off with what they have not time to swallow.

Ever rapacious and insatiate, they not only attack the living, but scratch up the new made graves, disinter the bodies, and greedily devour them, however putrescent. They also follow caravans and armies, to feast on the remains of the dead. In the uninhabited parts of the country, this animal frequently pursues during a whole night with unceasing assiduity; keeping up the cry, and at length, by great perseverance, tires down its prey. Its cry operates as a sort of signal to the lions and other beasts of prey to sally forth on the flying animals, and it has thus obtained the appellation of the Lion's Provider.

There is another species of this animal, called the



BARBARY JACKALL, or THALEB, which is about the size of a fox, and one of the prettiest, most active, and most adroit of quadrupeds. It does not associate in packs, but always lives singly.

### THE HYÆNA.



IN ancient times this ferocious and untameable animal was supposed to possess powers which certainly would have rendered it an admirable subject for poetry. It was not only imagined to have a jointless neck, consisting of one bone, but also to have the gift of changing its sex yearly, imitating the human voice, and, which was more valuable to a beast of prey, of charming the shepherds, and rendering them unable to move.

The Hyæna is a native of Asiatic Turkey, Syria, and many parts of Africa. It generally inhabits caverns and rocky places. It is about the size of a wolf, and at first sight, bears some resemblance to it: the head, however, is broader, the nose flatter, the ears longer, and the eyes not placed obliquely, but more like those of a dog. The legs are longer than those either of the dog or the wolf, and differ from those of all other quadrupeds, in having but four toes as well

on the fore feet as on the hinder. Its hair is of a pale grayish brown colour, marked with blackish bands down the body: and the head being generally held low, the back appears elevated like that of the hog, with a long bristly band of hair that runs all along the top of it.

When receiving its food, the eyes of this fierce animal glisten, the bristles of its back stand erect, and its teeth appear; all which give it a most frightful aspect, still further heightened by a tremendous howl. The cry of this beast is very peculiar; it begins something like the moaning of a human being, and ends in a noise similar to that of a person making a violent effort to vomit. Like the wolf, the Hyæna subsists by depredation, but is much stronger and more courageous. It frequently attacks men, carries off cattle, breaks open the sheep-cotes by night, and even scrapes up the graves, in order to devour the bodies which they contain. Such is his courage that he has been known to attack the ounce and panther, and even to put the lion to flight.

The spotted, or, as it is sometimes called the LAUGHING HYÆNA, nearly resembles the former species, but is somewhat larger, and varies in colour, being of a light brown diversified with black spots. Its face and the upper part of its head are black, and the neck is furnished with an upright black mane. It is a highly daring, cruel, and mischievous animal; and its jaws are so strong that it crushes with ease the hardest bones.

These quadrupeds are said to inhabit several parts of Africa, and are particularly numerous in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope, where they frequently enter the huts of the inhabitants, and sometimes carry off the children. They are, however, serviceable, in removing those dead and putrifying animal substances which, in hot climates, would soon become a nuisance of the most dangerous kind.

## THE ROMPO, OR MAN-EATER.

THIS animal is a native of the interior of India and Africa, and derives its name from the manner in which it procures its food, by grubbing up human bodies from their graves. Its body is slender, and about three feet in length, with a long tail, tufted at the end; its head and mouth are similar to a jackall's, its ears to a man's, and its feet to a bear's.

## THE SHEEP.



THE Sheep, in its domestic state, is the most harmless and inoffensive of all animals: with its liberty it seems to have been deprived of its swiftness and cunning, and what in the ass might be called patience, in the Sheep appears to be stupidity. Loaded with a ponderous fleece, deprived of the defence of its horns, and rendered heavy, slow, and feeble, were it exposed to struggle with its natural enemies of the forest, it would soon be extirpated: it has therefore, no other safety than what it finds in man, and is obliged to rely solely upon that art for defence, to which it owes its degradation. This character, however, does not apply to such Sheep as are kept in mountainous

and thinly peopled regions ; as in those situations they retain a considerable portion of their native sagacity and courage.

This animal, in its domestic state, is too well known to require a detail of its habits, or of the methods which have been adopted to improve the breed. It is sufficient for us to state, that no country produces finer Sheep than England, either with larger fleeces or better adapted for the business of clothing. Those of Spain are confessedly finer, and we generally require some of their wool to work up with our own ; but the weight of a Spanish fleece is much inferior to one of Lincoln or Warwickshire. The Spanish or Merino breed has, however, been naturalized in this country, in France, Saxony, and other states, and likewise in New South Wales, and the fleece is found to retain its primitive fineness.

Of the domestic kinds of Sheep, besides our own, which is common in Europe, the first variety is to be seen in Iceland, Muscovy, and the coldest climates of the North. This, which may be called the ICELANDIC SHEEP, differs from our breed in the number of its horns ; having four, six, or even eight, growing from different parts of the forehead ; the wool also is long, smooth, and hairy, and of a dark brown colour. It is not shorn, but the fleece remains on till May, when it is stripped off at once like a skin.

The second variety is that of the BROAD-TAILED SHEEP, so common in Tartary, Persia, Syria, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Thibet. This animal is only remarkable for its large and heavy tail, which frequently weighs from twenty to thirty pounds ; and is obliged to be supported by a small kind of board fixed upon wheels. This tail, which is a substance between marrow and fat, the natives consider as a peculiar delicacy, and are therefore very careful of preserving it from injury. Their fleeces are very fine ; and, in Thibet, are worked into shawls.

The third observable variety is the GUINEA SHEEP, which are found in all the tropical climates, both of Africa, and the East Indies. They are larger, swifter, and stronger than the common race; with a rough hairy skin, short horns, pendulous ears, and a sort of dewlap under the chin. These, of all the domestic kinds, are best adapted for a precarious forest life: however, they seem to rely, like the rest, on man for their support and protection.

### THE ARGALI.



THIS animal, which seems to have a fair claim to be considered as the parent stock of all the varieties of sheep, bears the name of Argali, Moufflon, Musmon, Wild Sheep, and Siberian Goat. It is abundant in Kamtschatka, and is also to be found in all the alpine regions of central Asia, and in the highest mountains of Barbary, Corsica, and Greece. Like the ram, it has the eyes placed near the horns, and in form the two animals are nearly alike. The general colour of the hair is brown, approaching to that of the red deer: but the inside of the thighs and the belly are of a white, tinged with yellow. On the neck are two

pendent hairy dewlaps. The horns of the old rams frequently grow to such a size as to weigh sixteen or eighteen pounds each. The Argali is a fleet, active, and acute smelling animal, and cannot be taken, or even shot, without extreme difficulty. Its flesh, however, is held in such estimation by the natives of Kamtschatka, that to procure it there is no toil or danger which they will not cheerfully encounter.

### THE GOAT.



WHILE the sheep, in being domesticated, has lost nearly all his intelligence and spirit, the Goat has retained a large share of those qualities. It is, indeed, naturally possessed of a greater share of instinct than the sheep, and is considerably stronger, swifter, and more courageous. Lively, playful, and capricious, it does not easily submit to be confined, but chooses its own pastures, delights in climbing precipices, and is often seen reposing in tranquil security upon an eminence overhanging the roaring ocean. Nature has in some measure fitted it for traversing these declivities; the hoof being hollow underneath, with sharp edges, so that it could walk as securely on the ridge of a house as on level ground. It leaps with the utmost ease and security among the most frightful crags; so sure footed is it that even when two of them are yoked

together, they will not hesitate to take their leaps, and will generally accomplish them in safety.

Sensible of kindness and caresses, the Goat easily attaches itself to man: sometimes, indeed, so strongly as to become troublesome by its affection; and as it is a hardy animal, and very easily sustained, it is chiefly the property of the indigent. It seems, indeed, better pleased with the heathy mountain, or the shrubby rock, than the cultivated field; and its favourite food consists of the tops of boughs, or the tender bark of young trees. It is also capable of supporting immoderate heat, and is neither terrified by the storm, nor incommoded by the rain.

The milk of the Goat is sweet, nourishing, and medicinal, and not so apt to curdle upon the stomach as that of the cow. In several parts of Ireland and the highlands of Scotland, these animals constitute the chief riches of the hardy natives, and supply them with the few indulgencies which their situation permits them to enjoy. They lie upon beds made of their skins, which are soft, clean, and wholesome; they eat their milk with oaten bread; and convert a part of it into butter and cheese.

In the position of its horns, and in its manner of fighting, the Goat differs from the sheep. Its horns are somewhat erect from the top of the head, and bend backwards; and, when it fights, it rises on its hind legs, and turns its head on one side to strike; whilst the ram, on the contrary, runs full tilt, with its head down.

Goats, especially the male, have a strong and disagreeable odour. In South Guinea the negroes believe it to have been given to these animals as a punishment by a female deity, in consequence of their having requested her to allow them to use an aromatic ointment which she herself used. Irritated by their rash petition, she rubbed them with a stinking compound, and the smell which the parents thus acquired has been retained by the descendants.

## THE IBEX.



THE Ibex is supposed to be the parent stock of the domestic goat, but it is a much finer animal, and of a larger size. Its horns sometimes weigh sixteen or eighteen pounds, and are from two to four feet long. It is clothed with a thick warm coat of brown hair; a streak of black runs along the top of the back; and the belly and the hinder part of the thighs are of a fawn colour.

The Ibex assembles in flocks, which never consist of more than fifteen, and seldom of so many. It is equally agile and strong, and, when close pressed, will sometimes turn upon the incautious huntsman, and tumble him down the precipices, unless he has time to lie down, and let the creature bound over him. And if the pursuit be continued, this animal will throw himself down the steepest declivities, and fall on his horns in such a manner, as to remain unhurt.—It is principally found on the Alps, the Pyrenees, and the highest mountains of Greece.



## THE STREPSICEROS.



THIS animal is a native of Crete, and resembles our common goat, with the exception of the horns, which grow straight forward, curling like a wreath. It is about the size of a hart, having likewise red hair.

## THE ANTELOPE.



THE Antelope tribe forms the connecting link between the goat and the deer. In the texture of their horns

they agree with the former; and in their graceful make and swiftness of flight they resemble and, indeed, surpass the latter. Their horns are smooth, long, and twisted spirally or annulated, and are never cast. Their legs are long and tendinous, and in some of the species are so exceedingly slender and brittle that they will snap with a slight blow. They inhabit hot mountainous countries, and bound from rock to rock with an agility that excites astonishment in a spectator. In Africa and Asia they are very numerous. The general colour is brown on the back, and white under the belly. In the east the Antelope bears the name of Gazelle, and such is the brightness and beauty of its eyes that they furnish similes to the poet, and to call a woman "gazelle-eyed" is to pay her one of the highest compliments.

#### THE NYL GHAU.



PENNANT gives to this animal the name of the white-footed antelope. Its Persian name Nyl Ghu signifies a blue cow or bull; and, in fact, the creature seems to join something of the bull species with something of the antelope or deer. It is rather more than four

feet high at the shoulder. The male is of a dark gray colour, with short horns; the female is of a pale brown, without horns. The mode in which these animals fight is curious. While still at a distance from each other, they prepare for the attack by falling on their fore knees, and when they come within a few yards they make a spring, and dart against each other. The force with which they spring in this manner is very great. In its wild state, the Nyl Ghau is said to be exceedingly vicious; but when domesticated, it becomes tame and even affectionate. It is a native of the interior parts of India, and in several parts of that country is considered as royal game, to be hunted only by princes.

### THE CAMELOPARD.



THIS curious quadruped, of which only a single species is known to exist, seems to be one of the sports

of nature. Nor is it to be found but in the interior recesses of forests, or on the wildest plains in the remote parts of Africa. The ancients, however, were acquainted with it; for it is mentioned by Pliny, Opi-  
pian, and Strabo. In many respects it is allied to the deer and antelope tribes. The head is like that of the deer, armed with two round horns, each tufted with a brush of coarse black hair; and its legs and feet resemble those of the same animal, but with this remarkable difference, that the fore legs appear to be nearly twice as long as the hinder; which, however, is occasioned merely by the extraordinary height of the shoulders compared with the thighs. A short erect mane extends from the head nearly to the origin of the tail. Its height, when full grown, from the top of the head to the fore feet, is about seventeen feet; the skin is beautifully spotted with brown upon a whitish ground; and when the animal is standing still and viewed by a spectator in front, it resembles the trunk of a withered tree; the hinder parts being entirely concealed. Its gait in walking is neither awkward nor unpleasing, but it has a ridiculous kind of trot. Its defence is in its heels, and its kicks are so extremely rapid, that they are sufficient to defend it against the lion. Like all other horned and cloven footed quadrupeds, it ruminates and feeds entirely upon vegetables; but its favourite food is the leaf of a tall kind of sensitive plant, peculiar to the interior of Africa. When it browses on the ground, the length of its legs compels it to divide them to a considerable distance, in order to reach its food. This animal is also known by the name of the Giraffe.

## THE CHAMOIS.



THIS animal, which belongs to the antelope tribe, chiefly inhabits the Alps and Pyrenees, and is found in flocks of from four to eighty, and even a hundred. It is about the size of the domestic goat, of a dusk yellow brown colour, with the cheeks, chin, throat, and belly, of a yellowish white. The horns are black, slender, upright, hooked backward at the tips, and about eight inches in height, and at the base of each there is a tolerably large orifice in the skin, of which the use is unknown. Like all the antelope race, the Chamois has sparkling and animated eyes. It feeds only on the finest herbage, and its flesh is of a delicate flavour.

When alarmed, the Chamois hisses with such force that the rocks and forests reecho ; the note being very sharp at first, and becoming deeper towards the close. Having paused a moment, the animal looks round, and perceiving his apprehensions to be well founded, he again hisses with increased violence ; at the same time striking the ground with his fore feet, bounding from rock to rock, and evincing the utmost agitation, till the alarm is spread to a very considerable distance, and the whole flock provide for their safety by a precipitate flight.—The hissing of the male is much louder than that of the female ; it is performed through the nose ;

and is, strictly speaking, no other than a very strong breath driven violently through a small aperture.

Heat is so extremely disagreeable to these animals that they are never seen during summer, except in the excavations of the rocks, amidst fragments of unmelted ice, or under the shade of hanging precipices, which face the north, and effectually keep off the rays of the sun. They drink but sparingly, and chew the cud in the intervals of feeding. Their agility is wonderful, as they will throw themselves down, across a rock, which is nearly perpendicular, and twenty or thirty feet in height, without a single prop to support their feet. Their motion has, indeed, rather the appearance of flying than of leaping. The Chamois hunters of the Alps are so fond of the occupation that it almost becomes a mania, and they will brave every danger in the pursuit of this animal.

### THE STAG.



With respect to elegance of form, and grace and agility of motion, the Stag and some others of the deer

tribe, hold in Europe the same place which is held by the antelope in other parts of the globe. The male quadrupeds of this tribe have solid and branched horns, which are renewed every year, and, when young, are covered with a very vascular skin, clothed with a fine velvety fur, that falls off on their having attained their full size. They are extremely active, inhabiting woods and sequestered situations; and, in fighting, they not only make use of their horns, but stamp furiously with their fore feet.

The Stag, Hart, or Red Deer, is one of those innocent and peaceable animals that seem formed to embellish the forest, and animate the solitudes of nature. His graceful make, his airy motion, and the ample branches that adorn rather than defend his head, added to his size, strength, and swiftness, render him one of the most elegant, if not one of the most useful of quadrupeds.

This animal is extremely delicate in the choice of his food, which consists partly of grass, and partly of the young branches and shoots of various trees. When satisfied with eating, he retires to the covert of some thicket, to chew the cud; but his rumination is performed with greater difficulty than that of the cow or sheep, and is attended with a sort of hiccup during the whole time it continues. His senses of hearing and smelling are extremely acute. The female brings forth about the end of May, or the beginning of June, and, in general, has only one young one at a time. It is a singular fact that the Stag is himself one of the numerous enemies of the fawn, and that the female is obliged to exert all her art to protect her young one from him.

## THE FALLOW DEER.



IN form and disposition the Fallow Deer resembles the stag ; but it is smaller, less robust, and has broad and palmated instead of brauched and round horns. The two species have, indeed, an antipathy for each other, and will neither breed together nor herd in the same place. The colour of the Fallow Deer is a brownish bay, whitish beneath, on the insides of the limbs, and under the tail. The term of their life is about twenty years, and they arrive at perfection in thre. They are seldom found wild, being generally bred up in parks, and kept for the amusement and luxury of the great. They browse closer than the stag, and will feed on many vegetables which he rejects, but they are prejudicial among young trees, which they frequently strip too close for recovery. They continue almost in the same state through the whole year ; though there are particular seasons when their flesh is chiefly in esteem.

The wish to possess some favourite spot often causes a herd of these animals to divide into two parties, and engage each other with equal ardour and obstinacy. On such occasions, the combatants are led



by the oldest and strongest deer of the flock ; they attack with perfect order, fight with courage, retire or rally, as circumstances may require, and even renew the combat for several days ; until, at length, the weaker party is compelled to relinquish the object for which it has been contending. In England there are two varieties of the Fallow Deer ; the beautiful spotted kind, originally brought from Bengal, and the deep brown sort, introduced from Norway, by James I. and now common in many parts of this kingdom.

### THE ROEBUCK.



In elegance of form, vivacity of disposition, and gracefulness of motion, the Roebuck much excels the stag and the fallow deer. It is the smallest of British deer, and is now nearly extinct in this island ; the few that are left being chiefly confined to the Scottish highlands. His height at the shoulders is about two feet and a half ; the length of his horns is from six to eight inches, and they are strong, upright, and divided towards the extremity into three points or branches. The length of the Roebuck seldom exceeds three feet. He is exceedingly fleet, and scarcely less sagacious. His mode of eluding pursuit proves him to be far more cunning than the stag ; for, instead of continu-

ing his flight straight forward, he confounds the scent by retracing his own track, and then making an enormous bound to one side; having done which he lies flat and motionless while the dogs and men pass by.

The Roebuck differs materially from the rest of the deer kind in its habits: for instead of assembling in herds, and evincing the utmost inconstancy, each resides with his favourite female and young ones; never admitting a stranger into the little community. Her maternal affection and solicitude are extremely strong, but notwithstanding all her exertions, the fawns are frequently found out and worried by dogs, or destroyed by some other enemy. She produces two fawns, usually a male and a female.

In Great Britain there are but two known varieties of this animal; the red, which is the larger sort, and the brown, with a spot behind, which is somewhat less: but in America the breed is extremely numerous, and the variety in equal proportion.

### THE REIN-DEER.



This useful animal, the general height of which is about four feet and a half, is to be found in most of

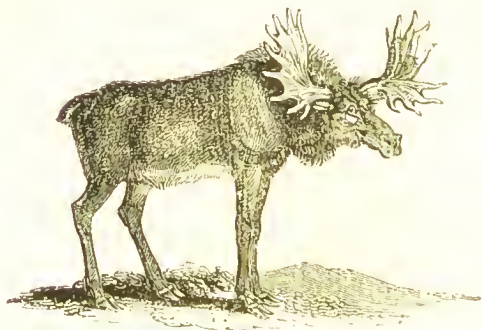
the northern regions of the old and new world. It has long, slender, branched horns; those of the male are much the largest. In colour it is brown above, and white beneath, but it often becomes of a grayish white as it advances in age. It constitutes the sole wealth of the Laplanders, and supplies to them the place of the horse, the cow, the sheep, and the goat. Alive and dead the Rein-Deer is equally subservient to their wants. When he ceases to exist, spoons are made of his bones, glue of his horns, bowstrings and thread of his tendons, clothing of his skin, and his flesh becomes a savoury food. During its life, its milk is converted into cheese, and he is employed to convey his owner over the snowy wastes of his native country. Such is the swiftness of this race, that two of them, yoked in a sledge, will travel a hundred and twelve English miles in a day. The sledge is of a curious construction, formed somewhat in the shape of a boat, in which the traveller is tied like a child, and if attempted to be guided by any person unaccustomed to it, would instantly be overset. A Laplander who is rich has often more than a thousand Rein-Deer.

The pace of the Rein-Deer, which it can keep up for a whole day, is rather a trot than a bounding; its hoofs are cloven and movable, so that it spreads them abroad as it goes, to prevent its sinking in the snow; and as the animal moves along they are heard to crack, with a pretty loud noise. The females do not begin to breed till they are two years old; but then they regularly continue breeding every year till they are superannuated.

In summer, these animals feed on various kinds of plants, and seek the highest hills, for the purpose of avoiding the gadfly, which at that period deposits its eggs in their skin, and that to such an enormous extent that skins are frequently found as full of holes as a colander. Many die from this cause. In winter their food consists of the lichen *rangiferinus* (rein-

deer liverwort), which they dig from beneath the snow with their antlers and feet. When the snow is too deep for them to obtain this article, they resort to another lichen that hangs on pine trees; and in severe seasons the boors often cut down some thousands of these trees to furnish subsistence to their herds. Attempts have been made, but without success, to naturalize the Rein-Deer in England. It is probable, however, that this object will ultimately be effected.

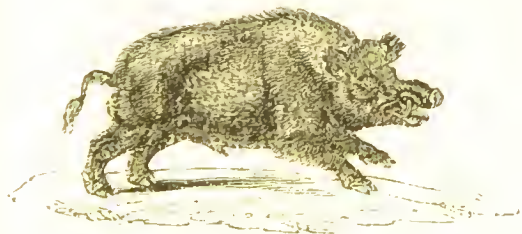
### THE ELK.



THE Elk, or Moose Deer, inhabits the northern forests of Europe, Asia, and America, as far as Japan. It is generally larger than the horse both in height and bulk. Its horns are shed annually, and are of such magnitude that some have been found that weighed upwards of sixty pounds. The neck of the Elk is so short and its legs so long that it cannot graze on level ground, but must browse the tops of large plants and the leaves and branches of trees. It can step without difficulty over a gate that is five feet high. When

disturbed it never gallops, but escapes by a kind of quick trot. None of the deer tribe are so easily tamed as this animal, which is naturally gentle; and when he is once domesticated he manifests great affection for his master. In the state of New York, a successful attempt has been made to employ Elks in the labours of agriculture. The Indians believe that there exists a gigantic Elk, which can walk without difficulty in eight feet of snow, is invulnerable to all weapons, and has an arm growing out of his shoulder, which it uses as we do ours. They consider him as the king of the Elks, and imagine that he is attended by numerous courtiers. With them the Elk is also an animal of good omen, and to dream of him often is looked upon as an indication of long life.

### THE BOAR.



THE species that belong to the hog tribe combine the various characteristics of several tribes of animals. They resemble the horse in the number of their teeth, the length of their head, and having but a single stomach; and the cow kind in their cloven hoofs and the position of their intestines: but in their appetite for flesh, their numerous progeny, and their not chewing the cud, they resemble those of the claw-footed kind.

Thus they fill up that chasm which is found between the carnivorous and graminivorous kinds; being possessed of the ravenous appetite of the one and the inoffensive nature of the other. They offend no other animal of the forest, at the same time that they are furnished with arms to terrify the bravest.

The WILD BOAR, which is the original of all the varieties, is neither so stupid nor so filthy an animal as that which we have reduced to tameness. He is much smaller than the hog, and does not vary in colour, like the domestic kind, but is always found of a dark iron gray, with black ears, feet, and tail. His snout is much longer than that of the tame hog, and the tusks are considerably larger; sometimes growing near a foot in length: they spring out from both the upper and under jaw, but the lower ones are most to be dreaded, as they frequently inflict desperate wounds.

The chase of the Wild Boar, constitutes one of the principal amusements of the higher ranks, in those countries where it is to be found. Small mastiffs are generally used; and the Boar when driven from his covert, goes slowly and uniformly forward, not much afraid nor very far from his pursuers: at intervals he turns round, and stops, as if desirous of attacking the hounds; but, being aware of his ferocity, they keep off, and bay him at a distance; he then resumes his course, till, being completely fatigued, the young dogs close in upon him, at the risk of their lives, while the more experienced ones are content to wait until the hunters come up with their spears, and either dispatch or disable him. This species of hunting is attended with considerable danger, as his tusks are formidable, and he not unfrequently uses them against his pursuers with terrible effect.

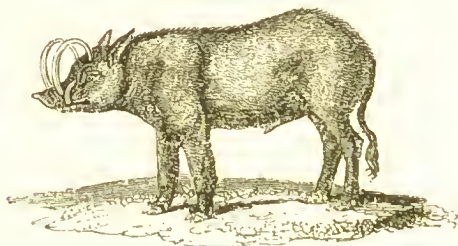
## THE SOW.



THE Sow subsists principally upon roots and vegetables, and seldom assails any other animal, being content with such provisions as are obtained without danger: yet it has sometimes been known to attack infants, and if it happen to meet with a dead and even putrescent carcass, it immediately seizes upon it. It is, indeed, sordid and brutal in its nature, and appears to make choice only of what other animals find the most offensive. Stupid, filthy, inactive, and drowsy, its life is a round of sleep and gluttony; and if supplied with sufficient food, its flesh soon becomes a greater load than its legs are able to support, and it continues to feed, lying down, or kneeling, an helpless instance of indulged sensuality. Yet as well as the male, it is capable of being taught many things, is attached to its companion, and will hasten to the assistance of any of its kind, as soon as it hears them utter the cry of distress. It has been trained like a pointer, and displayed equal sagacity in finding game. Wind appears to have a peculiar influence on this quadruped; for when it blows violently, it appears much agitated, and runs towards its sty, screaming in the most violent manner. It has also been remarked

that on the approach of bad weather it will bring straw to its sty, as if to prepare a bed, and hide itself from the impending storm. Sows go with young about four months, and produce six, eight, and often twelve in a litter.

### THE BABYROUSSA.



THE Babyroussa is usually elassed among the hog species, though it has very few points of resemblance with any of that kind. Its body is less thick and clumsy than that of the hog, and is covered with soft and short hair like wool; its legs are longer, its muzzle is shorter, and its ears are erect and pointed. The jaw bones are very thick and strong, and from thence proceed four enormous tusks, two of which curve upwards, and reach almost to the ears. These are of a very fine ivory, smoother and whiter than that of the elephant, but less hard. When the animal is going to repose it hitches one of the curved tusks on the branch of a tree, and thus supports itself while asleep. The Babyroussa is a native of many parts of Southern Asia and Africa, of Madagascar, and of some of the islands of the Indian Ocean. It feeds upon grass and leaves of trees.



## THE PECCARY, OR MEXICAN HOG.

THOUGH, at first view, the Peccary, or Tacaju, has the appearance of a wild boar, particularly in the shape of its head, the length of its snout, and the form of its legs; yet upon a nearer examination it will be found to vary completely in many essential particulars. The body is not so bulky; the legs are shorter; the ears are erect; the bristles are much thicker and stronger than those of the hog, and, when raised in anger, resemble the prickles of a hedgehog; instead of a tail it has only a small fleshy protuberance; the stomach and intestines are differently formed; and, unlike every other known quadruped, it has upon its back a sort of navel, which exudes a liquor of a strong musky smell:—this, however, is so covered with long bristles, that it cannot be seen unless they are drawn aside. These animals are very numerous in America, where they are frequently seen in herds of several hundreds together, grazing among the woods, and on the mountains, and occasionally uniting like hogs in each other's defence. They are persevering enemies of lizards, toads, and all the serpent kind. The Peccary is prolific, and, if taken when young, may be easily tamed.

## THE CAPIBARA.

IN its shape, the colour and coarseness of its hair, its short thick neck, and rounded bristly back, the Capibara, or Cabiai, has some similarity to a hog. Like that quadruped it is also fond of water and marshy places, brings forth many young at a time, and feeds indiscriminately upon vegetable and animal food. The difference between them is, nevertheless, sufficiently obvious. The head of the Capibara is longer, the eyes are larger, and the snout is divided, like that of a rab-

bit or hare, and furnished with thick strong whiskers ; it is also destitute of a tail, and unlike all others of this kind, instead of a cloven hoof, it is in a manner web-footed, and thus adapted for swimming and living in the water. It is a native of South America, and some naturalists have called it the Water Hog, from its frequenting the borders of lakes and rivers like the otter. It is a gentle animal, easily tamed, and, when domesticated, will come at call, and follow its feeder.

### THE GLUTTON.



THIS animal, which, according to the Linnean system, is ranked among the bears, is found in Siberia, and the north parts of America, where it is known by the name of the Carcajon. It is three feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which measures a foot ; the top of the head, the back, the muzzle, and tail, are of a blackish brown colour ; the sides are of a dusky hue ; and the paws are white. The skin is exceedingly valuable. In such high esteem is it held by the people of Kamtschatka, that they say that the heavenly beings wear garments of no other fur. The women of that country ornament their hair with its white paws.

This voracious creature is seen lurking among the thick branches of trees, in order to surprise the deer, with which the extensive forests in that part of the world are known to abound. It is said that it carries with it a kind of moss to which the deer are partial. This it throws down when any of the herd approaches,

and if the deer stops to eat, the Glutton immediately darts down upon it, sticks its claws between his shoulders, and remains there immoveably firm ; eating its neck, and digging a passage to the great blood vessels that lie in that part. At length the deer, wounded and exhausted by loss of blood, sinks to the ground ; and the Glutton continues eating in the most voracious manner, till it is nearly incapable of motion, after which it buries the remainder of its prey for a future meal. It is a courageous animal, and will defend itself strenuously, but may be tamed, and taught many amusing tricks.

### THE BADGER.



THE general length of the Badger is two feet six inches, exclusive of the tail. On the upper part this animal is of a uniform gray colour, and on the under parts wholly black. Its legs are so short that its belly seems almost to touch the ground : this, however, is a false appearance caused by the length of the hair, which makes the body seem much more bulky than it really is. It is a solitary inoffensive animal, that lives remote from man, and digs itself a deep winding hole, with great assiduity ; its legs being very strong, and its claws stiff and horny. It seldom ventures far from its habitation, as it runs but slowly, and can find safety only in the strength of its retreat. When surprised by dogs at some distance from its hole, it falls upon its back, combats with desperate resolution, and seldom dies unrevenged on its enemies. It is, indeed,

not easy to overcome him, his skin being so thick that it resists the impression of the teeth, and so loose that he is enabled to turn round easily, and bite his assailants in the most tender parts.

The Badger feeds on both animal and vegetable substances. It sleeps the greatest part of its time, and is particularly fat during the winter season. Its hole is kept remarkably clean; and when the female brings forth, she makes a comfortable bed of hay for the reception of her young, which she feeds at first with her milk, and afterwards with such petty prey as she can surprise.

When taken young the Badger is easily tamed, and, after a short time, will play with the dogs, and follow its master about the house. Its flesh is eaten by the poor of some countries, but is very rank and ill tasted.

### ANONYMOUS ANIMAL.



THE animal delineated in the above cut is a native of India, and has been denominated the Ursine Sloth; but it must evidently be referred to the bear class, as it differs from the sloth tribe in the number of its toes, resembles the bear in size and shape, and is clothed with very long, black shaggy hair. The snout is a

little elongated; the feet have five crooked claws, and the tail is so short as to be scarcely visible. Its motions are, in general, slow and languid; but, when disturbed or irritated, it appears moderately lively, and utters a kind of short abrupt roar. Vegetables are its food, and it is extremely fond of honey. It is said to burrow in the ground, and to have been dug out of its subterraneous retreat when first discovered.

### THE SAGOIN.

THIS animal is about the size of a rabbit; it is of a grizzled colour, with a tail like a cat, feet like a squirrel, and a face similar to a martin's, with a short round ear. It is found in the Brazils and other parts of South America.

### THE KANGUROO.



THERE exist three species of the Kangaroo, all of which are natives of New Holland. The principal of these is the Great Kangaroo, which was first discovered in 1770, by some of the persons who accompanied Captain Cook. It often measures nine feet in length from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail,

and weighs a hundred and fifty pounds. The head and neck are very small, while the lower parts gradually dilate to a very great size; the fore legs are hardly nineteen inches long, while the hinder ones, which are perfectly bare and callous beneath, measure three feet seven inches. The head bears some resemblance to that of the deer, having a mild and placid visage; the ears are moderately large and erect, the eyes full, and the mouth rather small. The general colour is a pale brown, inclining to white underneath. From the great difference in length of the fore and hind legs, the pace of this animal consists in vast springs, or bounds, which are said at times to exceed twenty feet in length. It can with ease leap over an obstacle above nine feet high. In its state of rest, it sits erect on the whole length of the hind feet, supporting itself by the base of the tail: which is occasionally used as a weapon of defence, and is of such prodigious strength as to be able to break the leg of a man at a single blow. The female seldom produces more than one young one at a birth, which, when first brought forth, is not above an inch long, and is received into an abdominal pouch, that the female is furnished with, which conceals the teats, and serves as a receptacle to secure the young in time of danger.

The SILVER-HAIRED KANGAROO is considerably smaller than the former, and distinguished by the delicacy of its limbs and the superior fineness of its hair.

The RAT KANGAROO differs from the common species in being only of the size of a rabbit. The colour is brown with long coarse hair, ash coloured beneath; the ears are more rounded, and there are only four toes on the forefoot. On each side of the upper lip are several long whiskers, which are wanting in the great Kangaroo; the head is rather flattened sideways, and the general appearance of the animal is far less elegant and pleasing.

## THE OPOSSUM.



LIKE the kangaroo, this animal, which is found in North and South America, is distinguished from all others by the possession of abdominal pouches for the protection of their offspring. In some there are two of these cavities, in others three, which can be opened or shut at pleasure, and in which the young ones remain, hanging to the nipples, till they can shift for themselves. This creature is about the size of a small cat, but its fur makes it appear larger. It has a head somewhat like that of a fox, with small lively eyes, and long, broad, and transparent ears, like those of the rat kind. The legs are short, and the feet formed like hands; each having five fingers, with white crooked nails, and rather longer behind than before. The tail is round and about a foot long, slightly covered with hair near the insertion, but quite naked towards the end.

On the ground, the Opossum is a slow helpless animal, but it climbs trees with great expedition. It chiefly subsists upon birds, and hides among the foliage to seize them by surprise; it also frequently hangs

by its muscular and flexile tail, and, in this situation, watches its prey for hours together. If any lesser animal, which it is able to overcome, happen to pass underneath, it drops upon it with unerring aim, and quickly devours it. By means of its tail, it likewise slings from tree to tree, hunts insects, and escapes its pursuers.—It is easily tamed, and is neither mischievous nor ferocious; but its figure is disagreeable, and the odour that exhales from its skin rank and disgusting. It is so tenacious of life as, in North Carolina, to have given rise to an adage, that, “if a cat has nine lives, an Opossum has nineteen.”

### THE MEXICAN OPOSSUM.



THIS animal, which is also called the Cayopollin, is found in the mountainous parts of New Spain, and resembles the opossum, but is only a little larger than a rat, and lives in trees. Its tail is useful in twisting round the branches to secure its hold. The young attach themselves to their mother by their hands and tails; and, upon the least alarm, embrace her closely; whilst she carries them to the shelter of some neighbouring tree.



## THE PHALANGER.



THE Phalanger, though often denominated the Surinam Rat, nearly resembles the opossum, but is distinguished by the fashion of its hinder hands; the thumb and the four fingers being joined together, except at the extremities. This animal is about the size of a small rabbit, and has a tail of great length. The colour varies in different individuals.

The TARSIER is an extraordinary little animal, resembling the former, in having four hands and a long tail; but it differs in the extreme length of its hinder legs, which are longer than the rest of its whole body. Its hair is woolly, soft, and of a deep ash colour; and the tail is naked in the middle, and hairy at both extremities. It is found in some of the Indian islands, particularly Amboyna.

## THE MARMOSE.

THE Marmose, or Murine Opossum, greatly resembles the opossum, and is found in the same continent. It seems, indeed, to differ only in being less; having a sharper snout, and, instead of an abdominal pouch, two longitudinal folds, within which the young continue to suckle some short time after they are brought forth.

## THE FLYING OPOSSUM.

THIS animal is found in New South Wales: its head is like a squirrel's, with ears large and erect, but the fur is more delicate, and of a beautiful dark glossy colour, mixed with gray, the under parts white; on each hip is a tan coloured spot. The sailing membrane resembles the flying squirrel's, but is broader in proportion; on the fore legs it has five toes, with a claw on each; on the hind ones, four toes, and a long thumb, which enables the animal to use it as a hand; it is remarkable, that the three out claws of the hind feet are not separated like the others.

## THE WOMBACH.

THIS animal is a native of New South Wales, and was discovered in the year 1798. It is about the size of a badger, a species of which it was supposed to be, from its dexterity in burrowing in the earth, by means of its fore paws; but in its general motions, it appeared to have much of the habits and manners of a bear. It has a large head; a broad forehead: a face tapering to the nose, which is a hard gristly substance, well adapted for removing the earth when it burrows; each jaw has two cutting teeth, long and sharp like those of a kangaroo, with a space of an inch between them and the grinders, which are strong and well set. From the structure of its teeth, it does not appear to be a carnivorous animal: its eyes are small and black; its ears short and pointed. The paws are something like a beaver's, with which it runs so awkwardly that a man could easily overtake it. Its posteriors differ from most other animals, by falling down in a sloping direction, commencing at the hip joint, and descend-

ing to the knee joint of the hind legs: its tail is so short, that it is scarcely perceivable. The general colour is of a cream-brown intermixed with black hairs. The female, like most other animals of New South Wales, is distinguished by a pouch or false belly for the security of its young. The flesh is considered by the natives as a great luxury.

### THE HARE.



OF this tribe there are several species, all of which are herbivorous, and all exceedingly timid. Their fear is indeed justified by the continual persecution which they experience. Among its enemies, the Hare numbers dogs, cats, all the weasel race, birds of prey, and last, and worst, mankind: so that, although its natural term of life does not usually exceed eight years, it seldom lives out that scanty period. To baffle, in some degree, the hostility of its foes, nature has endowed it with great fleetness, and a good share of sagacity. It uses a variety of arts to evade the dogs, and, when pursued, has even been known to push another Hare from its seat, and lie down there itself. Its muscles are formed for swiftness; it has large prominent eyes, placed backward in its head, so that it can almost see behind it as it runs; and its ears,

which are still more remarkable for their size, are tubular, and capable of being directed to every quarter; so that the smallest sounds are readily received, and the animal's steps are directed accordingly. The muscles of the body are very strong, and without fat; so that it carries no superfluous burden of flesh; and the length of the hind feet adds to the rapidity of its motions, especially in ascending high grounds. Instinct teaches it to choose its form in a place where the surrounding objects are nearly of the colour of its own body.

The females produce four times a year, go with young thirty days, and generally bring forth three or four at a time, which are suckled for about three weeks, and then left to shift for themselves. They however seldom separate far from each other, or from the spot where they were produced, but make each a form at some little distance. They generally feed during the night, choosing the most tender blades of grass, and quenching their thirst with the dew. They live also upon roots, leaves, fruit, and corn; are particularly fond of birch, pinks, parsley, and such plants as are furnished with a milky juice; and during winter, they strip the bark off trees, there being scarcely any that they will not feed on, except the lime or the alder. When domesticated, they are fed with lettuce, and other garden herbs; but the flesh of such as are thus brought up, is always indifferent. The Hare may be tamed, and is then a frolicsome and amusing animal. Cowper, the poet, has left an interesting account of the manners and habits of three tame Hares, which were in his possession for several years.

## THE RABBIT.



NOTWITHSTANDING the hare and the Rabbit are so similar in appearance and disposition, there exists so strong an enmity between them that they will fight with the bitterest animosity when shut up together. In fecundity the Rabbit far surpasses the hare, as it breeds seven times in the year, and generally produces seven or eight young ones at a time. So that, were this to happen regularly for about four years, the progeny from a single pair would amount to almost a million and a half. Their enemies, however, are so numerous as to prevent any increase injurious to mankind; for besides their affording food to us, they are also devoured by almost all animals of prey. Yet, in the reign of Augustus, they became such a nuisance to the Balearic Islands, that the inhabitants were under the necessity of petitioning the emperor to send a military force to destroy them.

The Rabbit burrows in light soils, where it continues great part of the day, and breeds up its young. Previous to the time of parturition, the female enlarges her apartment, and makes a warm and comfortable bed with a quantity of wool, which she pulls from her own body. During the whole of the first two days, she never leaves her young, except when pressed by hunger; and she then eats with surprising quickness,

and immediately returns. She always conceals them from her mate, lest he should devour them; and therefore, when she goes out, she covers up the hole so carefully, that its place is scarcely perceptible; yet, when they are somewhat grown, and are brought by the mother to the mouth of the hole, to eat such vegetables as she gets for them, the male seems to acknowledge them as his offspring, takes them betwixt his paws, smooths their hair, and caresses them one after another with great tenderness. The maternal attentions continue only one month; as at the expiration of that time, the young are able to provide for themselves. Rabbits give the alarm to each other by thumping on the ground with one of their hind feet, so as to be heard to a considerable distance.

The DOMESTIC RABBIT is of various colours—white, brown, black, and variegated. It is somewhat larger than the Wild Rabbit; but its flesh is not so good, being softer and more insipid.—Its food is generally cabbage leaves, colewort, blades of corn, sourdock, and other succulent plants: but sweet short hay, with a little clean oats, make the best diet.

The fur of this animal is principally used in the manufacture of hats; being mixed in certain proportions with the fur of the beaver.

### THE GUINEAPIG.



OF the cavy tribe there are seven species, the most common of which is the Restless Cavy, or Guineapig. Though a native of Brazil, it lives and propagates in

temperate, and even in cold climates, when protected from the inclemency of the seasons.—Great numbers are kept in a domestic state, it being a pretty looking, harmless, and cleanly animal. It is, however, void of attachment, even to its own offspring, which it will suffer to be devoured without attempting any resistance. The males, like the rabbit, will also eat their young. So cleanly are Guineapigs, that much of their time is spent in licking and smoothing the fur of each other, and of the little ones; and should the latter happen to be dirtied, their mother will never again suffer them to come near her.

The Guineapig is considerably less than the rabbit; its upper lip is only half divided; it has two cutting teeth in each jaw; large and broad ears; its hair is of different colours, white varied with orange and black, in irregular patches; it has no tail; is a restless animal; feeds on bread, grains, and vegetables; and its usual voice is like the grunting of a young pig.—It is capable of breeding at the age of two months, and produces from four to twelve at one time.

### THE SPOTTED CAVY.

THIS animal is about the size of a hare, but it has a much thicker, plumper, and fatter body. The colour of the back is dark brown, or liver-coloured; but is lighter on the sides, which are beautifully marked with lines of white spots, running in parallel directions from its throat to its rump; those on the upper part of the body are perfectly distinct; the belly is white. Its head is large; its ears short and naked; its eyes full, and placed high in its head, near the ears; it has two strong yellow cutting teeth in each jaw; its mouth is small; its upper lip divided; and it has long whiskers on its lips, and on each side of its head, under the ears. Its legs are short, with four toes on the fore, and three on the hind foot; and it has no tail.

When pursued, it takes to the water, and escapes by diving. If attacked by dogs, it makes a vigorous defence. Its flesh is esteemed a delicacy by the natives of Brazil.

### THE COMMON SQUIRREL.



THIS beautiful little animal is a general favourite for the elegance of its form, the liveliness of its motions, and the gentleness of its disposition. Though naturally wild, it is soon familiarized to confinement, and, though excessively timid, it is easily taught to receive with freedom the most familiar caresses from the hand that feeds it.—It usually lives in woods, and makes a commodious, roomy nest, of moss or dry leaves, in the hollow of trees.—It seldom descends upon the ground, but leaps from tree to tree with great agility, and it is extremely watchful.

Its food consists of fruits, almonds, nuts, acorns, &c. of which it accumulates great stores for winter provision, and secures them carefully near its nest; never touching them till it can no longer find food elsewhere. In the summer it feeds on buds and young shoots, and is particularly fond of the cones of the fir and pine trees.



The Squirrel is of a bright brown colour, inclining to red; the breast and belly are white; the ears are ornamented with long tufts of hair; the eyes are large, black, and lively; the fore feet strong and sharp; the fore legs are curiously furnished with long stiff hairs, which project on each side like whiskers.—When it eats it sits erect, and uses its fore feet as hands to convey food to its mouth.

Of the Squirrel there are several varieties, some of which are to be found in almost every country; but they chiefly abound in northern and temperate climates. They bring forth four or five young at a time.

### THE FLYING SQUIRREL.



Of the Flying Squirrel there are two species; the one of which is a native of North America, the other of Norway and Lapland. The American species uses the same food, and forms the same hoards, as the common Squirrel; but the Norwegian feeds principally on the tender branches of the beech and pine trees. The latter species differs from the former principally in having its tail full of hair, rounded at the end, and its body being a fine gray on the upper part, and white on the lower; while the American has a tail tapering to a point, and is of a cinereous brown on the back, and white tinged with yellow on the belly. That which distinguishes it from all other animals, is its peculiar conformation for taking those leaps that almost resem

ble flying. It is assisted in these surprising bounds by a peculiar formation of the skin, which extends from the fore feet to the hinder; so that when the animal stretches out its legs, this skin is spread out between them, somewhat like that between the legs of a bat; and the surface of the body being thus increased, the Squirrel keeps buoyant in the air until the force of its first impulsion is expired, and then it descends. It, however, is capable of leaping only from a higher to a lower situation. When not in use this skin is wrinkled up against the sides. The Flying Squirrel is easily tamed, and soon becomes so familiar that it will nestle in the pocket or the sleeve of its owner.

In Virginia there is another of this species, called the HOODED SQUIRREL; the lateral membrane begins at the chin and ears, where it forms a kind of hood, and extends like that of the former, from the fore to the hind legs: its body is a reddish colour above, and of a yellowish ash beneath. It is a species, as yet, but little known.

### THE GRAY SQUIRREL.



THIS animal, which is about the size of a young rabbit, is found in the northern parts of Europe, and in several districts of America, and it occasionally migrates

to immense distances. It crosses rivers on a piece of pine bark, and uses its tail as a sail; but the little navigators are often wrecked on these voyages. Its colour is of an elegant pale gray, except on the under parts of the body and the inside of the limbs, which are white.—In Sweden and other cold countries, it changes its colour in the winter.—It makes its nest in hollow trees with moss, straw, wool, &c. For its winter sustenance it lays up stores of provision in holes made in the ground, and in amassing these it commits great havoc in the plantations, particularly among those of maize. These hoards are often destroyed by swine.—It is disliked by the sportsman as much as by the farmer, in consequence of its making a chattering noise on his approach, by which the alarm is given to the game.—Its fur is very valuable, and is imported under the name of *petit-gris*.

### THE GROUND SQUIRREL.



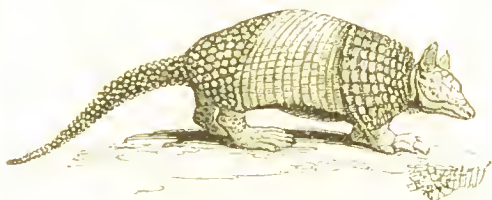
THE Ground or Striped Squirrel is very numerous in the forests of North America and Northern Asia. It burrows in the ground, and makes two entrances to its habitation; that if one should be stopped up, it may have access by the other. In Autumn, however, when the ground is covered with leaves, and it is warmly pursued, it has often some difficulty in discovering the

entrance to its haunt, and it then displays striking signs of consternation. It is only on such occasions that it will take refuge in trees. Its hole is formed with great skill, having several branches from the principal passage, each of which is terminated by a store house, in which its winter food is deposited: in one is contained acorns, in another nuts, in a third maize, and in a fourth chestnuts, which are its favourite food, and of which it sometimes collects not less than two hats full. In Siberia, ten or fifteen pounds weight of the kernels of the stone pine have been taken out of one of these hoards.

During harvest, they fill their mouths so full with corn, that their cheeks are quite distended; and in this manner carry it to their concealed store. They give great preference to certain kinds of food; and if after filling their mouths with rye, they chauce to meet with wheat, they discharge the one, that they may secure the other. These animals seldom stir out during winter, nor so long as their provisions last: when those fail, they sometimes work their way into places where apples are laid up, or into barns where maize is stored, and make great havoc.

This animal is marked with a stripe of black, which runs along the ridge of the back; and on each side a yellow stripe, bordered with black: its head, body, and tail are of a reddish brown; breast and belly white; its nose and feet of a pale red colour: its eyes full and lively. It is very wild, bites severely, and is tamed with difficulty. Its skin is of but trifling value, and is chiefly sold to the Chinese.

## THE ARMADILLO.

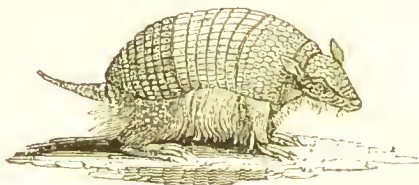


THE Armadillo is a native of South America, in which country there are several varieties of them.—They are all covered with a strong crust or shell, and are distinguished from each other by the number of flexible bands of which it is composed.—It is about twelve inches long, and eight broad, and is a harmless inoffensive animal, living in burrows under ground, which it seldom quits but at night; roots, fruits, and other vegetables are its food; it grows very fat, and is greatly esteemed for the delicacy of its flesh.

The Indians hunt it with small dogs, trained for that purpose.—When surprised, it runs to its hole, or if it cannot reach that, it attempts to make a new one, which it does with great expedition, having strong claws on its fore feet, with which it adheres so firmly to the ground, that, if it should be caught by the tail, whilst making its way into the earth, its resistance is so great, that it will sometimes leave it in the hands of its pursuers: to avoid this, the hunter has recourse to artifice; and, by tickling it with a stick, it gives up its hold, and suffers itself to be taken alive. If no other means of escape be left, it rolls itself up within its covering, by drawing in its head and legs, and bringing its tail round them as a band, to connect them more forcibly together: in this situation it sometimes escapes by rolling itself over the edge of a precipice; in which case it generally falls to the bottom unhurt. When found in its hole, it is either smoked

out, or expelled by pouring in water. When its pursuers, however, begin to dig for it, it eludes them by digging at the same time, and throwing the earth behind it, which it does so effectually, as to prevent smoke from penetrating.

### THE SIX-BANDED ARMADILLO.



THIS animal differs from the preceding in its size, which never exceeds that of a young pig; and in the number of its bands being less. Its tail is thick at the base, tapers to a point, and is shorter than in the rest of its species.—It is found in Brazil and Guiana.

To give a minute description of the shells or coverings of the Armadillos would be extremely difficult, as they are all composed of many parts, differing greatly from each other, in the order and disposition of the figures; but in general there are two large pieces that cover the shoulders and the rump, between which lie the bands, which are more or less in number in different kinds. These bands are not unlike those in the tail of a lobster; and being flexible, give way to the motions of the animal.

These singular quadrupeds are naturally harmless, unless they find their way into a garden, where they do much mischief, by eating the melons, potatoes, and other vegetables. Their motion is a swift walk, but they can neither run, leap, nor climb trees; so that if pursued in an open place, their only resource is to gain their holes as quickly as possible.

## THE PANGOLIN, OR MANIS.



THE Pangolin, or Manis, of which there are two species, the long-tailed and the short-tailed, is a native of Africa and the East Indies. The latter is thicker in proportion to its length than the former, and has a much shorter tail, and five toes on each foot, instead of four. In all other particulars they agree. To no other animal, not even the porcupine, has nature given such power of passive resistance as to the Pangolin, which may, in fact, be almost considered as invulnerable. All the upper parts of its body are closely covered with scales of different sizes, which, as they are attached to the skin only by the lower extremity, it can erect at pleasure, opposing to its adversary a formidable row of offensive weapons. They are sharp at the point, and so hard as, on collision, to strike fire like a flint. The moment it perceives the approach of an enemy, it rolls itself up like a hedgehog, and by that means secures all the weaker parts of its body. Its long tail, which at first view might be thought easily separable, serves still more to increase its se-

curity: for being lapped round the body, and defended with shells even more cutting than any other part, the creature remains in perfect safety, and sets at defiance the efforts of the panther, the leopard, or the tiger.

Like the ant-eater the Pangolin is toothless, and has a long cylindrical tongue, which it uses in the same manner as that animal to procure the insects on which it subsists. When the Pangolin approaches an ant hill (for these are the insects on which it chiefly feeds), it lies down near it, concealing as much as possible the place of its retreat, and stretching out its long tongue among the ants, keeping it for some time immovable. These little creatures, allured by its shining appearance, and the unctuous substance with which it is smeared, instantly gather upon it in great numbers; and when the Pangolin supposes that it has a sufficiency, it quickly withdraws the tongue, and swallows them at once. This operation it repeats till it be satisfied, or till the ants, grown more cautious, will be no longer allured to their destruction.

The Pangolin chiefly resides in the most obscure parts of the forest, and digs itself a retreat in the clefts of rocks, where it brings forth its young in security. It is about three or four feet long, or taking in the tail, from six to eight. Like the lizard, it has a small head, a very long nose, a short thick neck, a long body, short legs, and a tail of considerable length, thick at the insertion, and terminating in a point. The negroes of Africa, when they find it, beat it to death with clubs, and consider its flesh as a peculiar delicacy. The scales are used for a variety of purposes.

From the external appearance of the Pangolin, it might be supposed to belong to the lizard tribe. It is, however, a mammiferous animal, and brings forth its young alive.



## THE LAND TORTOISE.



THOUGH the defensive armour with which this creature is furnished has induced us to place it among what may be called the armed quadrupeds, yet, according to the Linnean system, it belongs to the class of amphibia, and order of reptiles. It is found in many parts of Africa, in Greece, and almost all the countries bordering on the Mediterranean; also in Sardinia, Corsica, and all the European islands of the Archipelago.—In length it seldom exceeds eight or nine inches, nor does it weigh in general more than three pounds. The shell is composed of thirteen middle pieces, and about twenty-five marginal ones; it is of an oval form, extremely convex, and broader behind than before. It is so strong that the pressure of a broad-wheeled waggon would be insufficient to crush it. The middle part is of a blackish brown varied with yellow; the under part or belly of the shell is of a pale yellow, with a broad dark line down each side, leaving the middle plain. The head is not large, nor does the opening of the mouth extend beyond the eyes; the upper part is covered with irregular scales: the legs are short, the feet moderately broad, and covered with strong scales, and it moves with proverbial slowness; the tail, which is rather shorter than the legs, is also covered with scales, but terminates in a horny tip.

This animal resides principally in burrows that it

forms in the ground, where it sleeps the greatest part of its time, appearing abroad only a few hours in the middle of the day. In the autumn it hides itself for the winter, remaining torpid four or five months, and not again making its appearance till the spring. About the beginning of June, the female scratches a hole in some warm situation, in order to deposit her eggs; these are hatched in September, at which time the young are about the size of a large walnut.

The Tortoise can refrain from eating as well as breathing, for a great part of the year. It is particularly remarked for its longevity, being known to exist upwards of a hundred and twenty years, and is so tenacious of life that it will live for many months after its brains have been extracted. Its principal food is lettuces, dandelions, all plants of a milky nature, fruits, worms, snails, and other insects.

### THE PORCUPINE.



THE Porcupine inhabits Africa, India, and the Indian islands, and is said to be sometimes found in Italy and Sicily. It is generally about two feet in length, from the head to the extremity of the tail. The upper part of the body is covered with spines, from ten to fourteen inches long, resembling the barrel of a goose-quill in thickness, but tapering at both ends, and variegated with black and white rings. In their usual state, they incline backward, like the bristles of a hog, but when the animal is irritated, they rise and stand upright.

As to the rest of the animal's figure, the muzzle bears some resemblance to that of a hare; the legs are very short, and these, as well as the belly, the head, and all other parts of the body, are covered with a sort of short hair like prickles.

Some persons have imagined that it possesses the power of discharging its quills, but this has been long exploded as an error. It seems to have arisen from the circumstance of the animal sometimes shaking off its quills to a considerable distance when it is shedding them. Its real mode of attack is by lying down on one side and suddenly rising when the enemy comes nigh, or by turning round and running backward at him. The Porcupine is a perfectly inoffensive animal; but when he is roused to self-defence, even the lion dare not assail him. He kills serpents by forming himself into a ball, and then rolling his spines over them. It is supposed by some, that the quills have a pernicious quality, which renders it difficult to cure the wounds inflicted by them.

The female goes with young seven months, and produces but one at a time: this she suckles about a month, and accustoms it betimes to live, like herself, upon vegetables, and the bark of trees.

### THE COUANDO.



THE Couando, or Brazilian Porcupine, is much less than the real porcupine, and differs from it in its shor-

ter head, muzzle, and quills, its longer tail, its wanting the tuft on its head, and the slit in the upper lip, and, above all, in its being a carnivorous animal. It roams by night, and sleeps by day. It is principally found in the southern parts of America, and is capable of being rendered tolerably tame.

There is another animal in America of this species, called the URSON, or Canada Porcupine, which is not so round as the former, and somewhat resembles the shape of a pig; it is covered with long bristly hair, with a shorter hair underneath, and under this the quills lie concealed very thick: they are white with a brown point, and the longest do not exceed four inches. The savages use them for pins and needles. These quadrupeds form their nests under the roots of large trees, sleep very much, and chiefly feed upon the bark of the juniper. In winter the snow serves them for drink, and in summer they lap water like a dog. They inhabit the country lying to the east of Hudson's Bay; and many of the trading Americans depend on them for food at certain seasons of the year.

### THE HEDGEHOG.



IN its being covered with prickly quills, this animal resembles the porcupine, but it differs from it in other particulars. The length of the animal varies from six

to ten inches; the head, back, and sides are covered with spines; but the nose, breast, and belly with fine soft hair. It has short and almost bare legs, with five long and separated toes on each foot; and the tail, which is about an inch long, is so concealed by the spines, as to be scarcely visible. They generally reside in hedge-rows or thickets, and feed on fallen fruits, roots, and insects; they are also very fond of flesh meat, either raw or roasted. When domesticated they devour cockroaches and beetles with great avidity. They chiefly wander about by night, and during the day lie concealed in their holes.

The Hedgehog defends itself from attack by rolling itself up like a ball, exposing no part of its body, that is not covered with these sharp weapons; thus tiring out the patience of its adversaries. During the winter, it wraps itself up in a warm nest of moss, dried grass, and leaves; and sleeps out the rigours of that season. It produces from three to five young at a birth; which at first are white, and exhibit only the marks of this species, with which, however, they are soon covered like the parent animal. The Hedgehog has frequently been persecuted in consequence of an absurd belief that it bites the udders of cows, while sucking them; an operation which the smallness of its mouth incapacitates it from performing.

### THE TANREC.

THIS animal is somewhat similar to the hedgehog, but smaller, being about the size of a mole, and is covered with prickles mixed with hair; but, unlike the hedgehog, it does not roll itself into a ball. Its legs are very short; its voice resembles the grunting of a hog, and it is fond of wallowing in the mire. It is generally found near creeks and harbours of salt water, and is said to be in a state of torpidity several months; during which its hair falls off, and is renewed upon its revival. It is a native of the East, and of Madagascar.

## THE ANT-EATER.



THERE are several animals distinguished by the common name of Ant-eaters, which differ much in form. They are, however, all distinguished by one characteristic ; which is, that as they feed wholly on insects, they have no teeth. The tongue is the only instrument with which they seize their food, and it is long, wormlike, and covered with a glutinous moisture. From the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, the great Ant-eater is sometimes eight or nine feet in length. It is covered with very coarse and shaggy hair. Its motions are slow, but it swims well.

This creature is a native of Brazil and Guiana, and it lives wholly on ants, woodlice, and wild bees. These it collects by thrusting its tongue into their holes, and having penetrated every part of the nest, withdraws it into its mouth loaded with prey.—Its legs are so strong, that few animals can extricate themselves from its gripe. It is said to be formidable even to the panthers of America ; and sometimes fixes itself upon them in such a manner, that both of them fall and perish together ; for its obstinacy is so great, that it will not relinquish its hold of an adversary even after it is dead.—It may, however, be tamed. The flesh has a strong disagreeable taste, but is eaten by the Indians.

## THE ORANG-OUTANG.



ANIMALS of the ape, baboon, and monkey kind, are furnished with hands instead of paws; their ears, eyes, eyelids, lips, and breasts resemble those of mankind; and they altogether present a disgusting caricature of the human race. Some, however, bear the marks of our boasted form more strongly than others. In the ape kind, we see the whole external machine strongly impressed with the human likeness, and capable of the same exertions; in the baboon kind, we perceive a more remote approach to the human form, the quadruped mixing in every part of the figure; while the monkey kind are removed to a still greater distance.

The Orang-outang, which is a native of Borneo, China, the East Indies, and Africa, is the largest of the ape species, and from the similarity of its external appearance to the human form, it has sometimes obtained the appellation of the Wild Man of the Woods. It has, however, a flatter nose, a more oblique forehead, and the chin without any elevation at the base.

The eyes are likewise too near each other, and the distance between the nose and mouth is much too great. A variety of essential differences have also been discovered in the internal conformation; which sufficiently evince, that notwithstanding the apparent affinity to man, the interval which separates the two species is immense: the resemblance in figure and organization, and the imitative movements which seem to result from these similarities, neither make him approach the nature of man, nor elevate him above that of the brute.

The specimens hitherto brought into Europe, have seldom exceeded three feet in height; but the largest are said to be about six feet high, very active, and of such prodigious strength, that one of them is able with ease to overpower the most muscular man. They are also exceedingly swift, and cannot be taken without much difficulty. Their colour is generally a kind of dusky brown, and their feet are bare. They go together in companies, and if they happen to meet one of the human species remote from succour, they show him no mercy. They even attack the elephant with clubs, and compel him to leave that part of the forest which they claim as their own. They feed on fruits, vegetables, and roots; and when they happen to approach the shore, will eat fish or crabs. The Orang-outang may be tamed, and he then displays much sagacity, and closely imitates the manners and actions of those with whom he resides. In this state he seems to lose all his ferocity, and even to acquire a considerable degree of affection for the human race.

The CHIMPANZEE is of the same species as the Orang-outang; but it has dark brown or blackish hair, seldom measures more than two feet and a half or three feet high, and is a native of Angola, Sierra Leona, and some parts of Asia.



## THE LONG-ARMED APE.



THIS animal derives its name from the extraordinary length of its arms, which reaches to the ground when it is upright. It is also called the Gibbon, and is a native of the East Indies, Sumatra, and the Moluccas. Its face is flat, and of a tawny colour, surrounded with a circle of gray bushy hair, which adds to the singularity of its aspect; its eyes are large and deep sunk; its ears round and naked; and its body covered on all parts with black rough hair, except its buttocks, which are quite naked.—It is three or four feet in height, of a mild, gentle, and tractable disposition, and feeds on fruits, leaves, and the bark of trees. The Gibbon always retains the erect posture.

## THE MAGOT.

THIS animal is a native of Africa. It is about three feet in height, generally walks on all fours, and sleeps sitting. In its nature it is filthy and sullen; but some of the species have been so far tamed as to be taught to dance, and to suffer themselves to be clothed.

## THE BARBARY APE.



IN the forests of India, Arabia, and Africa, these animals are numerous, but they so abound in Barbary, that the trees are sometimes nearly covered with them. The face of this ape bears a resemblance to a dog's, and its cheeks are furnished with pouches. The body is of a brown colour, inclining to green, but lighter on the belly. When standing erect upon his hind legs, he is generally two feet and a half, or three feet high. He walks oftener on four than on two feet; and, when resting, supports the body on two prominent callosities, situated on its buttocks. It is of a ferocious and unaccommodating disposition, but may be tamed sufficiently to be taught to dance, and to wear clothing.

There is another of this species, called the **PIGMY APE**, which is much smaller, as it never exceeds the height of two feet. It is a native of Africa, goes in great troops, and sleeps in caverns in the woods. The Pigmy Ape lives chiefly on pine apples, nuts, Indian figs, melons, and various roots and vegetables; and in procuring its food it commits great havoc in the plan-

tations. Before a body of them begin plundering, they send one of their troop to the top of a rock or tree, to give the alarm in case any person should approach. When a number of them are together, they defend themselves from wild beasts by throwing a cloud of sand behind them, which blinds their pursuers. It is a tractable, frolicsome animal, easily tamed, but unpleasant in its smell, dirty in its habits, and so mischievous, that it breaks and destroys every thing that lies in its way.

### THE BABOON.

THE Baboon differs from animals of the ape kind, in external appearance, in temper, and in disposition.—Fierce, untractable, and libidinous, its nature seems to partake of the hideous and disgusting character of its outward figure. Its body is compact, and nervous, and its strength so prodigious, that one of them can easily overpower two or three men who are unprovided with weapons. In Siam they frequently sally forth in multitudes to attack the villages, and plunder them of provisions, while the labourers are absent. Neither art nor caresses can render the Baboon in any degree docile or obedient. It seems to be continually chafing with rage, and seeking every opportunity of showing its savage propensities. In a state of captivity, it must be kept closely confined: and even in that state, we have seen one shake the bars of his cage so powerfully with his hands, as to excite the utmost terror in the spectators.

This animal is from three to four feet high, very strong built in the upper parts, but slender towards the middle, with large callosities behind, which are quite naked and red. Its tail is crooked, and about seven, or eight inches long. Its snout is long and

thick ; and on each cheek is a pouch, for receiving its superfluous provisions. It is covered with long thick hair of a reddish brown colour ; and walks more commonly on all fours than erect. Its hands as well as its feet are armed with long sharp claws.

The Baboon inhabits some parts of Asia, and the hottest parts of Africa ; and feeds on fruits, roots, and other vegetables. Numerous troops sometimes make their appearance, plundering gardens and cultivated grounds. They are extremely dexterous in throwing the fruit from one to another, and by this means will do incredible damage in a very short time.

The female brings forth only one young at a time, which she carries in her arms, and suckles at her breast ; but she never breeds in temperate climates.

### THE RIBBED-NOSE BABOON.



THE Ribbed-Nose Baboon, or Mandrill, is equally remarkable for its variety of colour, its singularity of appearance, its immense strength, and its unconquerable savageness. “ Under its projecting forehead,”

says Mr. Bingley, "are two small and vivid eyes, situated so near to each other that their position alone gives to the physiognomy an air of ferocity. An enormous muzzle, indicative of the most brutal passions, terminates in a broad and rounded extremity of a fiery red colour, from which continually oozes a mucous humour. The cheeks, greatly swollen, and deeply furrowed, are naked, and of a deep blue colour. A narrow blood-coloured ridge extends down the middle of the face, and terminates in the nose." Round the neck the hair is very long. On the sides of the head it joins that at the top, and the whole terminates in a somewhat pointed form. Each hair of the body is annulated with black and yellow; so that the whole fur has a greenish brown hue.

When standing upright, the Mandrill is in height from three feet and a half to five feet. It is to be found on the Gold Coast, in several other parts of Africa, and also in the East Indies, and the Indian Archipelago. Its voice bears some resemblance to the roaring of a lion. No art or kindness can in the least subdue its brutal propensities; and its great strength renders it an object of perpetual dread to its keepers. Yet it is not, strictly speaking, a carnivorous animal; for, though it will eat meat that has been cooked, its usual food is fruits and nuts.

The PIG-TAILED BABOON, so termed from its short, naked, piglike tail, is the least of all the Baboon kind; it has a large thick muzzle, naked face and ears, and is of a flesh colour; the hair on the head and back is of a deep olive: it has hazel eyes, and callosities on the buttocks, which are naked, and of a red colour. —It is a native of Sumatra and Japan.

## THE DOG-FACED BABOON.



THIS animal, which is between four and five feet high, and inhabits various parts of Africa and Asia, is distinguished by a longer tail than the rest of its kind; in this respect, it seems to bear some affinity to the monkey, and has been classed under that denomination by several naturalists.—Its head is large, muzzle long and thick, eyes small, face naked, and of an olive colour; the hair on its forehead is separated in the middle, and hangs down on each side of the face; from thence down its back as far as its waist it is long and shaggy, of a bluish gray colour, freckled with dark spots; the hair on the lower part of the body is short; and its buttocks are bare and red. It lives in troops, commits great depredations in gardens, and cultivated grounds, and is exceedingly strong, vicious, and impudent.

The **URSINE BABOON** is not unlike the last, but rather less. Its nose is long, head large, ears short, forehead high and prominent, terminating in a ridge; the body thick and strong, covered with long dusky hair, which gives it the appearance of a young bear; its tail is half the length of the body: its buttocks red.

—This animal is very numerous about the Cape of Good Hope. Troops of them make expeditions for the sake of plunder, in which, to prevent being surprised, they place a sentinel, which, upon sight of a man, gives a loud yell; when the whole troop retreats with the greatest precipitation; the young ones leaping on the backs of their parents, and clinging closely to them. When the Ursine Baboon sees a single person sitting and eating in the fields, it will steal behind him, snatch his food from him, retire to a little distance, and begin to devour it; now and then holding it out in its paws towards the loser, with many laughable grimaces, as if offering to restore the prize. It may be tamed, and will then guard its master's property with all the sagacity and fidelity of a dog.

### THE COMMON MONKEY.



MONKEYS swarm in nearly all the tropical climates, and the varieties of them are almost innumerable. All the kinds of them being smaller than the baboon, are endued with less powers of doing mischief. Indeed, the ferocity of their nature seems to diminish with their size; and they are sooner tamed, and more easily taught to imitate man than the former: but, at the best, if not kept under by the influence of fear, they are the most insolent and headstrong animals in nature.

These animals, it is said by travellers, are absolute masters of every forest where they reside. Neither the tiger nor the lion himself will venture to dispute the dominion; nor can even the birds escape their continual depredations: for as these harmless inhabitants of the woods usually build upon trees, the Monkeys are constantly on the watch to rob their nests. There is, therefore, but one animal that ventures to oppose this mischievous race, and that is the serpent. The larger snakes are often seen winding up the trees where the Monkeys reside, and, when they happen to surprise them sleeping, they swallow them whole, before they have time to make a defence.

The Common Monkey is a native of Barbary, and other northern parts of Africa, Arabia, and Persia; where it is called the Mona. Its nose is short and thick, its face of a dark lead colour, the beard on each side long, and of a greenish yellow; the top of the head is bright yellow, freckled with black; the back and sides are deep brown, with black freckles; the legs, feet, and tail, black; the inside of the thighs is of a pale blue colour, thinly covered with whitish hairs; and on each side of the rump, close by the tail, is a large white spot.

### THE GREAT-EARED MONKEY.

THIS animal, which is a native of the hottest parts of South America, is about the size of a squirrel, and has a naked face, of a swarthy flesh colour; its upper lip somewhat divided; its ears are very large and erect; its hair is soft, shaggy, and of a black colour: the hands and feet are covered with orange-coloured hair, very fine and smooth; its nails are long and crooked; and the tail is black, clothed with short hair, and twice the length of its body.—It is a lively, pleasant animal; easily tamed; but so delicate, that it cannot bear a removal to a less temperate climate.

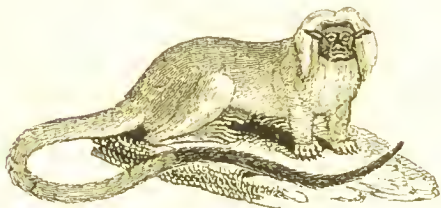


## THE STRIATED MONKEY.



THIS creature, one of the prettiest of the monkey tribe, is still smaller than the great-eared monkey, its head and body not exceeding twelve inches in length: its tail is long and bushy, marked with alternate rings of black and ash colour; its face is naked, of a swarthy flesh colour; the ears are large, and of the human form; the body is of a reddish ash colour, slightly undulated with dusky shades; its nails are sharp: and its fingers like those of a squirrel.—It inhabits Brazil; feeds on fruits, vegetables, insects, and snails, and is fond of fish, and the smaller kinds of spiders and their eggs. It may be rendered exceedingly tame; but it is a great enemy to cats. Most of the individuals of this species have a somewhat musky smell. The Striated Monkey is of a hardy nature, and has sometimes produced young ones in Europe, even as far to the north as Paris. The voice of this creature is a sort of shrill hissing whistle.

## THE RED-TAILED MONKEY.



THIS animal, which is somewhat larger than the striped monkey, and is sometimes called the Pinch, is remarkable for having a great quantity of smooth white hair, which falls down from the top of the head on each side, forming a curious contrast with its face, which is black, thinly covered with a fine gray down: its eyes are black and lively; throat black; hair on the back and shoulders of a light reddish brown colour; breasts, belly, and legs, white; the tail is long, of a red colour from the rump to the middle; from thence to the end it is black, and the animal frequently walks with it over its back.

It inhabits the woods on the banks of the river Amazons, and is a lively, beautiful little animal. The tone of its voice is a soft whistling sound, resembling more the chirping of a bird than the cry of a quadruped.

## THE SILKY MONKEY.

THIS animal, a native of Guinea, and very gentle and sportive, is by some called the Lion Ape, from the quantity of hair which surrounds its flat and dull purple coloured face, and falls backwards like a mane; its tail is also somewhat bushy at the end; on the

body the hair is long, bright, silky, and of a pale yellow colour; round the face it is of a bright bay, inclining to red; there is none on its hands and feet, which are of the same colour as the face; its body is ten inches long, its tail thirteen.

It seems to be more hardy than the rest of its species; one of them having been known to live at Paris several years, with no other precaution than keeping it in a warm room during winter.

The MUSTACHE is another beautiful little animal of the same clime; it has a tuft of yellow hair on each cheek, and another on the top of its head, which is long and upright: its face is of a bluish colour, the body of a greenish ash, and the breast and belly lighter. Its length is only one foot, that of the tail eighteen inches.

### THE RING-TAILED MONKEY.

THIS is the largest of all the American monkeys, it being about the size of a large fox. Its body is covered with long smooth shining black hair, forming a kind of ruff round the animal's neck: its tail is long and always twisted at the end.

These Monkeys are said to be so fierce, wild, and mischievous, that they can neither be conquered nor tamed.—They feed on fruits, grain, herbs, and sometimes insects; live in trees, and leap from bough to bough with wonderful agility, catching hold with their hands and tails as they throw themselves from one branch to another, and maintaining themselves so firmly, that, even when shot, they remain fixed to the trees where they die.—The flesh of this animal is good; and is not only eaten by the natives, but also by Europeans who frequent those parts.

There is another animal of the above kind called the DOUC, which differs from other monkeyes, in hav-

ing no callosities on its buttocks, which are entirely covered with hair; it is also much larger, being three feet and a half or four feet high when erect. It has a short and rather flat face, furnished on each side with long hairs of a pale yellow colour; its body is beautifully variegated with different-coloured hair; and round the neck there is a collar of a bluish-purple colour.—It is found in Cochin-China, and in the island of Madagascar; where it is called the Sifac.

### THE BAT.



THE Bat, of which there are several species, seems, at first sight, to belong to the class of birds, or, at least, to constitute the link which connects the tribes of birds and beasts. It has, however, nothing in common with the race of volatiles, except the power of raising itself in the atmosphere; its hair, teeth, habits, and conformation all combine to rank it among quadrupeds.

The common English Bat is about the size of a mouse, or nearly two inches and a half in length. The membranes, commonly called wings, are, in fact, nothing more than an extension of the skin all round the body; the skin is stretched on every side, when the animal flies, by the four inner toes of the fore feet, which are enormously long, and serve to keep it spread, and regulate its motions. The body is covered with a short fur, of a mouse colour tinged with

red; the eyes are very small, and the ears resemble those of a mouse.

It appears early in the summer, and commences its flight in the dusk of the evening; principally frequenting the sides of woods and shady walks, and skimming along the surface of pieces of water. Its flight is a laborious irregular movement, and if it happen to be interrupted in its course, it cannot readily prepare for a second elevation; so that if it strike against any object, and fall to the ground, it may be easily taken. It feeds upon gnats, moths, and nocturnal insects of every kind, and appears only in the most pleasant evenings, when such prey is abroad. At other times it remains concealed in the chink of some dilapidated building, or the hollow of a tree. Thus, even in summer, it sleeps away the greatest part of its time; never venturing out by daylight, nor in rainy weather: and its short life is still more abridged, by continuing in a state of torpidity during the winter; when it is frequently found hanging by its hooked claws to the roofs or sides of caves, unaffected by every change of weather, and regardless of the eternal damps that surround it.

From the observations of Spallanzani, it appears that the LONG-EARED, the HORSESHOE, and the NOCTULE BATS possess an additional sense, by which, when deprived of the power of seeing, they are enabled to avoid any obstacles that may be in the way of their flight.

### THE VAMPIRE.

THIS formidable species of Bat is to be found in Guinea, Madagascar, the islands of the Indian Ocean, and New Holland. It is from nine inches to a foot in length, and its wings sometimes expand to the width of upwards of four feet. In colour it is generally of a deep reddish brown. The head bears a resemblance

to that of a fox, and the tongue is pointed and terminated by sharp prickles. In those hot climates, the inhabitants leave open the doors and windows of their bedchambers, by which means the Vampyres enter; and if they find any part of the body exposed, they invariably fasten upon it, insinuate their aculeated tongue into a vein, with all the art of the most experienced surgeon, and continue to suck the blood till they are satiated. And it frequently occurs that persons, when awaked from their sleep (through loss of blood), have not sufficient strength left to bind up the orifice. The reason why the puncture is not felt is that, while the Vampyre is sucking, it continues to fan the air with its wings in such a manner that the refreshing breeze lulls the sufferer into a still deeper sleep.

The smell of these creatures is ranker than that of a fox, yet the Indians consider them as delicious food, and the French who reside in the Isle of Bourbon even boil them in their soup to give it a relish! The hair of the Vampyre Bat, interwoven with threads of cyperus squamosus, is used by the natives of New Caledonia for making ropes and the tassels of their clubs.

### THE WEASEL.



THE distinguishing marks of all the Weasel tribe are long and slender bodies, short legs, and great flexi-

bility of motion, the latter of which is a consequence of the loose articulation of the spine. They are thus eminently calculated to pursue their prey through narrow and deep recesses. They are all of a bold and ferocious disposition. As their subsistence is precarious, they sometimes live a long time without food; and if they happen to fall in where it is plentiful, they destroy all about them before they attempt to satisfy their appetite, and suck the blood before they begin to touch the flesh.

The Weasel is the smallest of this numerous tribe; and is an active and handsome little animal. Exclusive of the tail it is not seven inches in length; and its height is not more than two and a half. The tail, which is bushy, measures about two inches and a half. The colour of the Weasel is a pale reddish brown on the back and sides, but white under the throat and the belly. The eyes are small and black; the ears short and roundish, and the nose is furnished with whiskers, like those of a cat. It moves by unequal leaps, and can spring several feet from the ground, or run up a wall without difficulty.

In its wild state, the night is the time during which this animal may be properly said to live. At the approach of evening, it is seen stealing from its hole, and creeping about the farmer's yards in quest of prey. It destroys rats, mice, moles, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, and even hares; and it also sucks eggs, by making a small hole at one end, through which it licks out the yolk. It seizes its prey near the head, but seldom eats it on the spot. Buffon relates an instance of a Weasel which was tamed, and which then manifested much good temper and affection, and an unbounded curiosity.

## THE POLECAT.



THE Polecat, or Fitchet, is about seventeen inches in length ; of a deep chocolate colour, nearly approaching to black ; has short ears, tipped with white, and the tail is covered with longish hair. In summer he generally lives in woods, thick brakes, or rabbit warrens. His burrow is about two yards deep, and commonly ends under the root of a tree. In winter he haunts barns, haylofts, and other outhouses, whence he sallies forth on the poultry.

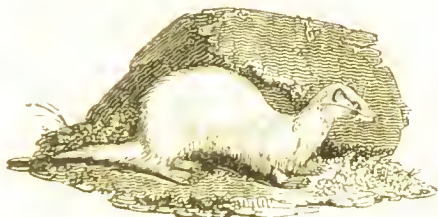
These animals are very destructive to young game of all kinds, and commit dreadful devastations among pigeons when they get into a dovehouse. Without making so much noise as the Weasel, they do a great deal more mischief ; dispatching each victim with a single wound in the head, and satiating themselves with copious draughts of blood, after which they carry off the prey : or if the aperture by which they entered will not admit of this, they first eat the brains, and then carry away the head, leaving the body behind. They are also extremely fond of honey, and are frequently known, in winter, to attack the hives, and drive away the bees. Rabbits, however, seem to be their favourite prey, and a single Polecat is often sufficient to destroy a whole warren. They will also



catch and eat fish, though, probably, this is done by them only when other food is not attainable.

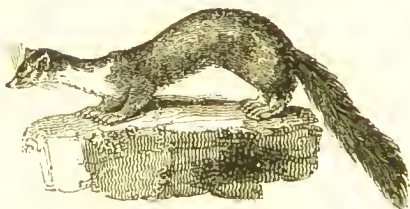
The odour of the Polecat is insufferably fetid; yet the fur, especially when procured in the winter, is both valuable and beautiful.

### THE FERRET.



THE Ferret resembles the polecat in his manners and habits, yet is evidently a distinct species. It is originally a native of Africa. It is not so large as a polecat, is of a dingy but pale yellow, has red eyes, and a strong and offensive smell. Though not difficult to be tamed, it is of an irascible nature, and will bite severely. It is used for driving rabbits from their burrows into the nets which are set for them. For this purpose the Ferret is always muzzled; for it is such an inveterate enemy of the rabbit kind, that if a dead one be presented to a young Ferret, it instantly bites at it; or if it be living, the Ferret seizes it by the neck, winds itself round it, and continues to suck its blood till it be satiated.—They are usually fed with bread and milk, and kept in boxes of wool, with which they make themselves a warm bed, to defend them from the inclemency of winter. There is a mixed breed, between the Ferret and the polecat, which some warreners prefer to the wholebred Ferret.

## THE MARTIN.



THIS animal differs from the polecat, in being rather longer : its tail also is longer in proportion, and more bushy at the end ; its nose is flatter : its cry is sharper and more piercing ; its colours are more elegant ; and its scent is considered as a most agreeable perfume. It is, in truth, the most beautiful of all British beasts of prey. Its head is small and elegantly formed ; its eyes are lively ; its ears are broad, rounded, and open ; its back, its sides, and tail are covered with a fine downy fur, with longer hair intermixed ; the roots of an ash colour, the middle of a bright chestnut, and the points black : the head is brown, with a slight cast of red ; the legs and feet are of a chocolate colour, and the throat and breast white. The claws are large and sharp, well adapted for the purpose of climbing ; but, as in other animals of the weasel kind, incapable of being sheathed or unsheathed at pleasure.

These animals are found in all the northern parts of the world, from Siberia to Canada, and China. They are chiefly hunted for their skins ; of which it is said that above twelve thousand are annually imported into England from Hudson's Bay, and more than thirty thousand from Canada.

## THE FOSSAN.



THIS animal, which in Guinea is called the Berba, is about the size of the ferret, and has a slender body, covered with hair of an ash colour, mixed with tawny. The sides of the face are black ; at the hind part of the head are four black lines, extending from thence towards the shoulders, the tail is long and annulated with black ; its eye is very large, round, and black, which gives it a mischievous aspect.—It inhabits the island of Madagascar, Guinea, Cochiuchina, and the Philippine Isles. It feeds on flesh and fruits, but prefers the latter, and is peculiarly fond of bananas. It is exceedingly fierce, and difficult to be tamed. At certain seasons the male emits a strong odour like musk.

## THE ICHNEUMON.



AT the head of the weazel tribe stands the Ichneumon, which was formerly deified by the Egyptians,

for its serviceable qualities in destroying serpents, the eggs of the crocodile, and all kinds of vermin. It grows to the length of from twenty-four to forty-two inches, of which the tail occupies one half; and its colour is a pale reddish gray. It is a strong, bold active, and easily domesticated animal. While eating it sits upright, and uses its fore feet. The Ichneumon has an omnivorous appetite. Rats, mice, birds, serpents, lizards, and insects, are all equally pursued; it attacks every living thing which it is able to overcome. On all kinds of serpents it makes war with great avidity. Its courage equals its voracity, for it fears neither the force of the dog nor the insidious malice of the cat; neither the claws of the vulture, nor the poison of the viper. This creature grows fast, and dies soon. It is an inhabitant of all the southern parts of Asia, and is also found in Africa, particularly in Egypt, and at the Cape of Good Hope.

### THE CIVET.



THE Civet has been erroneously denominated the Musk Cat, though it has nothing in common with the cat except being very active. It resembles animals of the weasel kind in the slenderness of its body, the shortness of its legs, the softness of its fur, and the odorous matter that exudes from its glands; but it differs from them in its superior size, it being more than two feet long, in the formation of its nose, and

the length of its tail, which tapers to a point. It is commonly of an ash colour, spotted with black, but is sometimes streaked as in the kind of cats called tabbies.

Although a native of the warmest climates, such as Guinea and the central parts of Africa, it is found to live in temperate and even cold countries, provided it is defended fully from the injuries of the air. Great numbers are bred in Holland, where the inhabitants gain largely by the perfume. The quantity which a single animal affords generally depends upon its health and nourishment: for it yields more in proportion as it is more delicately and abundantly fed. The Civet is collected twice or thrice a week, and is said to be more abundant after the animal has been irritated. Its favourite food consists of fish, eggs, rice, birds and raw flesh cut small: but it drinks very rarely.

The perfume of the Civet is so strong, that it communicates itself to all parts of the animal's body, and the skin continues to preserve the odour for a long time after it is stripped off. It is taken from a pouch near the tail, and is of the colour and consistence of pomatum. That of Amsterdam is reckoned the purest; the people of other countries adulterating it with gums and other matters.

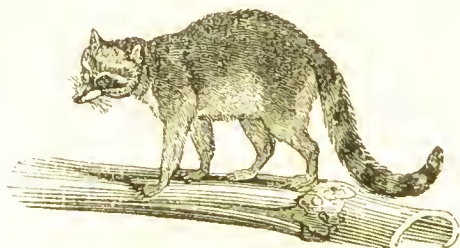
### THE GENET.



THIS animal, which is smaller than the civet, resembles all those of the weasel kind, in its length, com-

pared to its height; in having a soft beautiful fur; its feet armed with claws that cannot be sheathed, and its appetite for petty carnage. But it differs from them, in having a nose somewhat resembling that of a fox, and a tail tapering to a point. It is, in general, spotted with black, upon a ground mixed with red and gray; a sort of mane forms a black streak along the back; and the tail is marked with seven or eight rings alternately black and white, its whole length.—Like the civet, it has an opening or pouch, in which is secreted a kind of perfume. They are said to be very cleanly and industrious; and to keep houses perfectly clear from rats and mice, which cannot endure their smell. They require a warm climate to subsist and multiply in; yet they are chiefly confined to Spain and Turkey, and are never found in the warmer regions either of India or Africa.

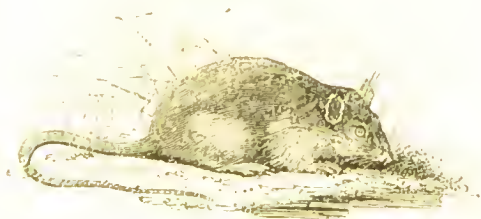
### THE RACCOON.



THE Raccoon is an inhabitant of North America, and of several of the West India islands. He dwells in the hollows of trees, and his principal food consists of maize, sugar canes, and various kinds of fruit; but he will also eat flesh, and is particularly fond of oysters, which he opens with wonderful dexterity. Being exceedingly partial to sweets, the Raccoon makes great ravages in the sugar plantations.

The Raccoon is about two feet long, and has a short and bulky body; the nose is rather shorter and more pointed than that of the fox; the fur long and thick, blackish at the surface, and gray towards the bottom; the tail, which is about a foot in length, is thick, tapering towards the point, and regularly marked with rings of black: the fore feet are much shorter than the hinder, and both are armed with five sharp claws. These claws enable him to climb trees with great facility, and to sport among the boughs with as much ease and safety as if he were on the ground. His motion, in walking, is singularly oblique; he is, nevertheless, a very active animal. He may be tamed without difficulty, and is then very good natured and sportive, but is as mischievous as a monkey, and seldom remains at rest. Of ill treatment he is extremely sensible, and never forgives those from whom he has received it. He has also an antipathy to sharp and harsh sounds, such as the bark of a dog and the cry of a child. His fur is used by the hatters, his skin is converted into gloves and upper leathers for shoes, and his flesh is considered as a delicacy by the negroes.

### THE RAT.



THE indigenous Rat of this country is that species called the Black Rat. It is, however, now become scarce, in consequence of the race being nearly exter-

minated by the BROWN RAT, which was introduced into England from Norway, a century ago, and has spread in all quarters. The Brown Rat is about nine inches long, and has a tail of the same length as the body, covered with minute dusky scales, thinly interspersed with short hairs. This Norwegian invader is a daring little animal, which will turn and fasten on its pursuer; and, as its teeth are long, sharp, and irregular, it inflicts a painful wound, that heals with difficulty.

It is not from large animals that man receives the most injury. The smaller tribes, by their numbers and perseverance, are much more annoying and destructive than their unwieldy brethren can possibly be. The Rat is among his greatest nuisances. So prolific is it, and so rapidly does it multiply, that, provided they could obtain sufficient food, and remain unmolested, the progeny of one pair might, in two years time, be swelled to more than a million. Fortunately, however, they have numerous enemies, and have also an irresistible propensity to destroy each other. But, thinned as their ranks incessantly are, they are still numerous enough to commit extensive depredations. On board a man of war they have been known to consume a hundred weight of biscuits daily, and when, to destroy them the ship has been smoked between decks, six hampers a day have for some time been filled with their carcasses. The Isle of France was once abandoned on account of their immense swarms, and, even now, they are a severe scourge to it.

The surest method of killing them is by poison: nuxvomica ground, and mixed with oatmeal, with a small quantity of oil of rhodium and musk, has been found by experience to be very effectual.



## THE MOUSE.



THIS well known little animal, which is diffused in great numbers over almost every part of the world, seems a constant attendant on man, and is only to be found near his dwelling. Its enemies are numerous and powerful, and it has no means of resistance: its minuteness seems to be its best security; and it is saved from extinction only by its amazing fecundity. It brings forth several times in the year, and generally from six to ten each litter. The young are produced without hair, and in little more than fifteen days are able to subsist by themselves; so that the increase is prodigious.

When viewed without the absurd disgust and apprehension which usually accompanies, or is affected at the sight of it, the Mouse is a beautiful creature; its skin is sleek and soft, its eyes bright and lively, all its limbs are formed with exquisite delicacy, and its motions are smart and active. Though one of the most timid of creatures, the Mouse may be taught to repose confidence in mankind, and will quit its place of refuge to receive food. Some few of this species are of a pure white colour, with large red eyes; but whether they be a permanent kind, or only an accidental variety, cannot well be determined.

Of FIELD MICE there are two kinds; the Long-tailed, and the Short-tailed, of which the latter is the largest. They live in burrows under ground, and feed principally on acorns, nuts, and beech mast. There is another species of Mouse, called the HARVEST MOUSE, which is the smallest of British quadrupeds; two of them not weighing more than one halfpenny. This kind makes a beautiful nest, as round as a cricket ball, and about the same size.

### THE MUSK RAT.



THIS animal is a native of almost all parts of America, from Carolina to Hudson's Bay. In Canada it is called the Ondatra. It is about the size of a small rabbit, and has a thick short head, resembling that of a Water Rat; its hair is soft and glossy; and beneath the outward hair there is a thick fine down, very useful in the manufacture of hats; it is of a reddish brown colour; its breast and belly are ash, tinged with red; its tail is long and flat, covered with scales; its eyes are large; its ears short and hairy; it has two strong cutting teeth in each jaw,—those of the under jaw are about an inch long, but the upper ones are shorter.

Its manners, in many respects, very much resemble those of the beaver. It is fond of the water, and swims well. At the approach of winter, several families associate together, and build little huts, about two feet in diameter, composed of herbs and rushes cemented

with clay, forming a domelike covering; from which are several passages, in different directions, by which they go out in quest of roots and other food.—The hunters take them in spring, by opening their holes, and letting the light suddenly in upon them.—At that time their flesh is tolerably good, and is frequently eaten: but in the summer it acquires a scent of musk so strong as to render it perfectly unpalatable. If taken when young they may easily be tamed, and are then very playful, and perfectly inoffensive.

### THE MUSCOVY MUSK-RAT.

THIS animal is about the size of the common rat: it has a long and slender nose; no external ears; and very small eyes; the tail is compressed sideways, and its hind feet are webbed; it is of a dusky colour; the belly is of a light ash.—It is a native of Lapland and Russia, in the former of which countries it is called the Desman; it frequents the banks of rivers, and feeds on small fishes. It is often devoured by pikes and other fish; to which it communicates so powerful a musky flavour as renders them very unpleasant to the taste. From its tail is extracted a kind of musk, very much resembling the genuine sort.—Their skins are frequently laid amongst clothes to preserve them from moths.

### THE LEMMING RAT.

THIS singular animal is a native of Norway and Lapland; but those of the former country are far larger than those of the latter. It subsists wholly on vegetables. When a severe winter is approaching the Lemmings migrate to the southward, and they move in a straight forward direction, with such inflexible regularity, that, sooner than deviate from it, they will perish in attempting to pass over any obstacle which they may find in their way.

## THE JERBOA.



THIS animal, of which there are several varieties, is a native of Egypt, Barbary, Palestine, the east of Siberia, and Canada. In many particulars, both of habit and conformation, it bears a striking resemblance to the kangaroo tribe, though, according to the Linnæan system, it does not class with it. Like the kangaroo, it has long hind legs, which it uses in leaping. It seldom goes on all fours; and its fore legs, which are very short, are almost wholly employed in holding its food, and in making its burrows. The hind legs are naked, similar to those of a bird, and have on each leg only three toes, of which the middle is the longest.— It is somewhat less than a rat, and has large full eyes; its hair is long and soft, of a reddish colour on the back; the under parts of the body are white; across the thighs there is a large black band, in the form of a crescent; its tail, terminated with a black tuft tipped with white, is longer than its body; and, while leaping, the Jerboa stretches it out, but while standing or walking, carries it in the form of an S, the lower part touching the ground.

The motions of the Jerboa are similar to those of the kangaroo. It goes forward very nimbly on its hind

feet, taking leaps of five or six feet from the ground ; but, instead of proceeding straight forward, it jumps first to one side and then to the other. Such is its agility that even a greyhound can with difficulty kill it. It is a lively, harmless animal, lives entirely on vegetables, and burrows in the ground like a rabbit. The excavations which it forms are many yards long, oblique and winding, but not more than half a yard from the surface of the ground. It is fond of warmth, making its nest of the finest and most delicate herbage ; and seems sensible of the approach of bad weather by wrapping itself up close in hay, with its head between its thighs.—It sleeps during winter, without nutriment. The Jerboa breeds several times in the summer, and usually brings forth seven or eight young ones at a litter. The flesh is reckoned one of the greatest of delicacies by the Arabs.

### THE MOLE.



THE Mole, of which there are seven species, is generally between five and six inches long, and is covered with glossy black hair. It is admirably formed for its habits of underground life. The snout, resembling that of a hog, is fitted for rooting in the earth in search of worms and the larva of insects, which are its principal food, and the fore feet have great strength, to enable the animal to dig its subterranean retreat. The hind feet, which are smaller than the others, are cal-

culated to throw back the mould, while the creature is excavating. Its eyes are so small as to be scarcely discernible, but they have been ascertained to possess all the qualities necessary to distinct vision; and, though it has no external ears, it is said to possess the faculty of hearing in an eminent degree. The body is thick and round, terminated by a very short tail; and in consequence of the legs being exceedingly short, the animal seems to lie flat upon its belly: the feet appearing as if they grew immediately out of the body.

Moles live in pairs, between which a warm attachment subsists. They are, however, said to be ferocious, and sometimes to tear and eat their own kind. Admirably fitted for a life of darkness and solitude, the Mole has no appetites but what it can easily indulge: few enemies, excepting man, but what it can easily elude or conquer. When it has once buried itself in the earth, it seldom stirs out, unless disturbed by violent rains in summer, or when, in pursuit of prey, it happens to come too near the surface, and thus gets into the open air. In general it chooses the looser softer grounds, beneath which it can travel with facility, and in which it finds the most ample supply of worms and insects. The worms it skins with much dexterity; stripping off the skin from end to end, and squeezing out the contents of the body.

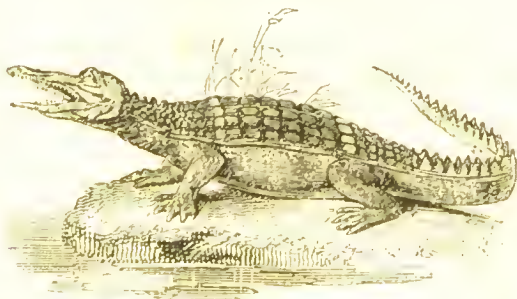
The female usually produces four or five young ones about April. "The habitations in which they are deposited," says Mr. Bingley, "are constructed with peculiar care and intelligence. The parent animals begin their operations by raising the earth and forming a tolerably high arch. They leave partitions, or a kind of pillars at certain distances; beat and press the earth; interweave it with the roots of plants: and render it so hard and solid, that the water cannot penetrate the vault. They then elevate a little hillock under the principal arch, and lay upon it herbs and leaves, as a bed for their young. In this situation they are above the level of the ground, and conse-

quently above the reach of ordinary inundations. They are at the same time defended from rain by the large vault that covers the internal hillock. This hillock is pierced on all sides with sloping holes; which descend still lower, and serve as subterraneous passages for the mother to issue from her habitation in quest of food for herself and her offspring. These by-paths are beaten and firm; they extend about twelve or fifteen paces, and issue from the principal mansion like rays from a centre."

Small as the Mole is, it effects considerable mischief. In pasture land it annoys and injures the farmer by the hillocks which it forms, and it is still more prejudicial in recently sown nurseries of forest trees. In 1740 M. de Buffon planted sixteen acres of land with acorns, the greatest part of which were speedily carried away by Moles. In some of their burrows no less than a bushel of acorns was found.

In Poland there are some of these animals which are perfectly white, and those of Virginia are of a black colour mixed with a deep purple.

### THE CROCODILE.



ACCORDING to the Linnean classification, this formidable monster belongs to the order of reptiles, and stands at the head of the lizard tribe. Of all the amphibious

raee it is by far the most daring and ferocious. In size, too, it yields only to the elephant, the hippopotamus, and the whale; as it not unfrequently attains to the enormous length of upwards of twenty-five feet. Its appearance is in unison with its disposition, being well calculated to excite disgust and terror. As it has no lips, the teeth are always bare, so that, even when it is lying quiet, it seems to be in an enraged state, and the fiery glare of its eyes, which are situated almost close together, adds to the malignity of its aspect. Yet, when it can obtain plenty of food, it does not attack man, and instances have been known, in which it has been rendered so tame as to suffer children to ride on its back, and even to beat it.

The armour with which the upper part of the body is coated, may be accounted among the most elaborate pieces of nature's mechanism. In the full grown animal it is so strong as easily to repel a musket ball; on the lower part it is much thinner and more pliable. The whole animal appears as if covered with the most curious carved work. The colour of the full grown Crocodile is blackish-brown above, and yellowish white beneath; the upper parts of the legs and sides are varied with deep yellow, and in some parts tinged with green.

The tail of this animal is two-edged; the feet triangular, the fore ones having five, and the hinder only four toes. Within the month of this beast are two rows of numerous sharp-pointed teeth, thirty or more on each side, so disposed that, when the month is shut, they fit in alternately above and below; its eyes are large and fiery, projecting out of the head, and secured within an osseous orbit, but immoveable, so that they can only see before them as they walk. The upper part of the snout and forehead consists of one fixed bone, reaching to the ears, which are broad, surrounded with a little border, and growing near the joint of the upper jaw, where also the largest scales begin.

It has been imagined that both jaws are moveable,



and that it has no tongue, but this is a mistake, the upper jaw being fixed, and the tongue being larger than that of the ox, but so connected with the sides of the lower jaw that it cannot be stretched far forward.

It is only in the water that the Crocodile can exert its full strength. There it displays a wonderful degree of agility. Conscious of this advantage, it seldom leaves the water, except when pressed by hunger, or to lay its eggs. As it swims it often makes a kind of half suppressed murmuring noise. The young are produced from eggs deposited in the sand, and hatched by the heat of the sun. The female generally lays from eighty to a hundred, and the hatching is completed in about thirty days. When the young one leaves the shell, it seldom exceeds seven or eight inches in length. The swarms would be innumerable were they not thinned by the ichneumon, the vulture, various kinds of fish, and even by the larger animals of the same species.

The Crocodile abounds in Africa, and is also a native of Asia and of the East Indian Archipelago. It was formerly worshiped in Egypt. The negroes of Africa, and some of the Asiatic tribes, eat its eggs and flesh, which they consider as delicious; but the strong musky flavour of the flesh renders it distasteful to a European palate.

The ALLIGATOR, or AMERICAN CROCODILE, which is called the Cayman by the Indians, is closely allied to the preceding species; the principal difference between them being that its head and part of its neck are much more smooth than those of the latter, and that its snout is more wide and flat, and more rounded at the extremity. The usual length of the Alligator is seventeen or eighteen feet, but it sometimes exceeds this. This animal is a native of the warmer parts of America, in some of which it is astonishingly numerous. Its voice is loud and dreadful, and its musky scent is sometimes so powerful as to be exceedingly offensive. M. Pagès tells us that, near an American river, which was thronged with Alligators, the effluvia

was so strong as to impregnate his provisions with the nauseous effluvia of rotten musk. Bertram, in his Travels through the southern states of North America, which were published in 1774, has given an amusing account of the observations which he made on the Alligators in the river St. Juan, in East Florida, and of the dangers to which he was exposed from these amphibious furies. He thus describes a battle between two of them: "Behold him rushing forth from the flags and reeds! His enormous body swells; his plaited tail brandished high, floats upon the lake; the waters like a cataract, descend from his opening jaws; clouds of smoke issue from his dilated nostrils; the earth trembles with his thunder. When immediately from the opposite coast of the Lagoon, emerges from the deep his rival champion. They suddenly dart upon each other. The boiling surface of the lake marks their rapid course, and a terrible conflict commences. They now sink to the bottom, folded together in horrid wreaths. The water becomes thick and discoloured. Again they sink, when the contest ends at the oozy bottom of the lake, and the vanquished makes a hazardous escape, hiding himself in the muddy turbulent waters and sedge on a distant shore."

During the hot months, in South America, these creatures bury themselves in the mud, and become torpid. M. de Humboldt, gives an amusing instance of one of them getting up from his two months nap. "Sleeping with one of his friends on a bench covered with leather, Dou Miguel," says he, "was awakened early in the morning by violent shakes, and a horrible noise. Clods of earth were thrown into the middle of the hut. Presently a young Crocodile, two or three feet long, issued from under the bed, darted at a dog that lay on the threshold of the door, and, missing him in the impetuosity of his spring, ran towards the beach to attain the river. On examining the spot where the *barbacon*, or bedstead, was placed, the cause of this strange adventure was easily discovered. The ground

was disturbed to a considerable depth. It was dried mud, that had covered the Crocodile in that state of lethargy, or summer sleep, in which many of the species lie during the absence of the rains amid the Llanos. The noise of men and horses, perhaps the smell of the dog, had awakened the Crocodile. The hut being placed at the edge of the pool, and inundated during part of the year, the Crocodile had no doubt entered at the time of the inundations of the Savannahs, by the same opening by which M. Pozo saw it go out."

### THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.



This animal, which is peculiar to the old world, is the only one of its species which has hitherto been discovered. It is a native of Africa, the rivers of which it inhabits. In size it equals, and sometimes exceeds, the rhinoceros: M. le Vaillant killed one in the south of Africa, which was ten feet seven inches in length, and about nine feet in circumference. It is an uncouthly made and unwieldy creature; the body being very bulky, fat, and round, the legs short and thick, the head large, the mouth extremely wide, and the teeth of vast strength and size. On the other hand, the ears, eyes, and tail are as disproportionately small. Short hair thinly set, and of a brownish hue, covers

the whole of the animal. The skin is, in some parts, two inches thick; and the Africans cut it into whip thongs, which they prefer to those of the rhinoceros hide, because they are soft and pliable. Buffon describes the Hippopotamus as a slow moving and timid animal, when on the land; and, indeed, its formation seems to indicate that it is not capable of rapid motion. This idea is, however, an erroneous one, as these creatures have been known to pursue persons for several hours, who escaped with great difficulty. It must not, however, be supposed, that it is of a ferocious nature. In fact, it appears never to be the aggressor except when annoyed or wounded. In the latter case, it will furiously attack boats or canoes, and often sink them by biting large pieces out of their sides.

It procures its food from both the land and the water. Three or four of them are often seen at the bottom of a river near some cataract, forming a kind of line, and seizing upon such fish as are forced down by the violence of the stream. In that element they pursue their prey with equal perseverance and celerity; as they swim with great force, and remain at the bottom for some time without rising to take breath. When they rise, if danger be near, they raise their noses so cautiously, and so little above the surface of the water, as to be hardly perceptible. During the night, they quit the rivers to feed on sugar-canes, rushes, millet, or rice, of which they are enormous devourers; and they sometimes rush forth with such impetuosity as to trample down every thing that stands in their way. In general, however, they move so deliberately that it is difficult to ensnare them.

The female brings forth her young upon land, and it is supposed that she seldom produces more than one at a time. The calf, at the instant when it comes into the world, will fly to the water for shelter if pursued, a circumstance which Thunberg notices as a remarkable instance of pure instinct.

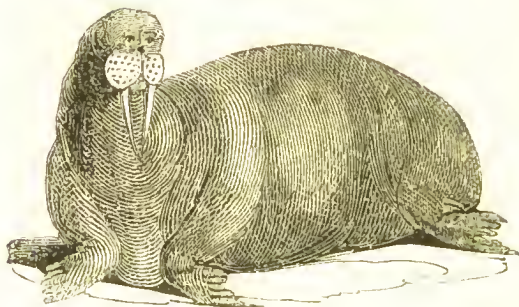
## THE TAPIR.

IN the circumstance of there being only one known species of this animal, and in its general habits, the Tapir bears a considerable resemblance to the hippopotamus; but it is a native of the new world, is much smaller than the river horse of the old, and, in some particulars reminds us of the elephant and the rhinoceros. The nose of the male is lengthened into a kind of proboscis, which it uses to grasp its food and convey it to its mouth, and with this it can pick up the smallest objects from the ground. The animal is about the size of a small cow, has a thick clumsy body, a slightly arched back, and short bulky legs. Its hair is of a dusky or brownish colour, and on its short thick neck there is a kind of bristly mane, which, near the head, is an inch and a half in length.

In the water the Tapir is exceedingly active, and swims and dives with wonderful facility. It can continue immersed for a long while, without rising to breathe. It sleeps in retired parts of the woods during the day; chiefly resides in dry places near the hills; and occasionally seeks its food in the savannahs. Its usual attitude is that of sitting on its rump like a dog; and its voice is a kind of whistle.

Though courageous and formidable if provoked, the Tapir is naturally gentle, and, if caught when young, may be rendered domestic, and will contract a strong attachment for those who are about it. The flesh is considered as wholesome food, and the skin makes an excellent leather, so hard, that the Indian shields, which are covered with it, are said to be impenetrable by an arrow. These animals are found in great numbers from the Isthmus of Darien to the river Amazons.

## THE GREAT MORSE.



THE Great Morse, or Arctic Walrus, belongs to the manati tribe. The individuals of this tribe have no fore teeth in either of the jaws, and have two great tusks, pointing downwards, which proceed from the upper jaw. The use of these tusks is to scrape shell fish and other prey out of the sand, and to assist the owner in climbing islands of ice, and in contending with its enemies. None of the manati are carnivorous; their food consisting of corallines, shell fish, and sea weeds. The hind feet are placed at the extremity of the body, and unite into a sort of fin.

The Great Morse is a large animal, often measuring eighteen feet in length, and from ten to twelve feet in circumference. It has diminutive eyes, and two small circular orifices instead of external ears. The legs are short, and each foot has five toes, connected together by webs.

The Great Morse is a native of the Arctic regions. It is to be found in great numbers on the northern part of the continent of America, and, every spring, vast herds of them visit the Magdalene Islands, in the gulf of St. Laurence. On the latter spot, before they be-

gan to be disturbed by the Americans, who kill them for their skin and fat, as many as seven or eight thousand have been known to be collected together.

This animal is of an inoffensive disposition, unless when provoked by being attacked, in which case it becomes truly formidable. It is of a social nature, strongly attached to its companions, and will expose itself even to death to liberate one of them which has been harpooned. A Walrus, on being wounded, has dived beneath the ocean, and risen again with a multitude of others, to attack the boat from whence the injury was inflicted. It is, therefore, not wonderful that the females should display a remarkable degree of fondness for the young ones.

The teeth of the Arctic Walrus weigh from ten to thirty pounds each, and are used as ivory; the fat furnishes from one to two barrels of oil; and the skin is capable of being manufactured into a strong and elastic leather.

## THE WHALE-TAILED MORSE.

THIS variety of the Morse tribe, which is also called the Manati, chiefly inhabits that part of the North Pacific which lies between Kamtschatka and America. It lives in families, which unite and form immense droves. All the individuals are exceedingly attached to each other, particularly the males to their females; nothing can terrify or compel the latter to abandon the former. The Manati is sometimes twenty-eight feet long, and weighs as much as eight thousand pounds. It has a small head, double lips, and the mouth is filled with white tubulous bristles, near the junction of the jaws, which prevent the food from escaping out of the mouth with the water. The blubber and the skin are the parts which render this creature an object of pursuit to mankind.

## THE ROUND-TAILED MANATI.

THIS animal frequents most of the Great African rivers, from Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope, and also many of the rivers on the eastern shore of South America. It is often seen in the Amazons nearly a thousand leagues from its mouth. It prefers shallow waters near low land, and is a frolicsome creature, frequently leaping into the air to great heights. The natives of America are said frequently to tame it, and we are told that it delights in music. The female, when struck by the harpoon, seems insensible to her own sufferings, and only anxious to protect her young one, by taking it under her fins or feet. The Round-tailed Manati is about six feet in length, and three or four in circumference. Its flesh is a white, well-tasted, and salubrious food. When the thicker parts of the skin are cut into slices and dried, they become exceedingly tough, and form good whips. Of the thinner parts, which have more pliability, the Indians make thongs to fasten together the sides of their canoes.

## THE SEA-APE MANATI.

THIS animal was seen, by Mr. Steller, off the coast of America, and was called by him the Sea-Ape. Pennant places it among the Manati tribe; but, as it has a head resembling in some measure that of a dog, with sharp upright ears, Mr. Bingley is disposed to class it with the Seals. The name of Sea-Ape was given to it in consequence of the frolicsome tricks which it played. It swam round and admired the ship, stood erect for a considerable time with one-third of its body out of the water, darted backward and forward repeatedly, under the ship, and brought up in its mouth a sea plant, like the bottle gourd, which it tossed up, caught, and played innumerable antics with.



## THE COMMON SEAL.



IN some respects the Seal resembles a quadruped ; in others it seems to approach to the nature of a fish. It has a large round head, a broad nose, and a small and short neck. The body is thickest where the neck is joined to it. From thence the animal tapers down to the tail, growing all the way smaller, like a fish. The whole body is covered with a thick shining hair, which looks as if it were entirely rubbed over with oil. But it is in the feet that this animal differs widely from all the rest of the quadruped kind ; for they are so stuck on the body, and so covered with a membrane, that they seem to resemble fins rather than feet, and might be pronounced such, did not the claws with which they are pointed show their proper analogy.

These animals differ considerably in size, being found from four to nine feet long ; they also vary in their colours ; some being black, others white, some spotted, and many yellow.—Their chief food consists of fish, which they are remarkably expert in pursuing and catching. In those places where herrings are seen in shoals, the Seals destroy them by thousands ; and when these retire, they are obliged to hunt after fish that are stronger, and more capable of evading pur-

snit.—They are taken for the sake of their skins, and the oil their fat yields. The Seal is capable of being tamed, and is said to be fond of music. The Icelanders believe them to be the offspring of Pharaoh and his host, who were converted into Seals on their being overwhelmed in the Red Sea. Were the race of this creature to cease to exist, the Greenlander would be rendered almost unable to inhabit his rigid clime, as it is principally from them that he derives the necessities of life. There is scarcely a part of them which is not of the highest utility to him.

### THE URSINE SEAL.



THE males of this species are, in general, about eight feet long, but the females are much smaller. Their bodies are very thick, and the colour of the hair is commonly black, but that of the old ones is tipped with gray. The females are of an ash-coloured hue. The nose projects like that of a pug dog, and the eyes are large and prominent. Their voice varies on different occasions; thus, when sporting on their native rocks, they low like a cow; when engaged in battle they growl hideously; after a defeat or receiving a

wound, they mew like a cat; and the note of triumph after a victory somewhat resembles the chirping of a cricket.—These animals are chiefly found on the islands in the vicinity of Kamtschatka, from June to September; after which they remove, some to the Asiatic, and some to the American coast. On Behring's Island they are so numerous as almost to cover the whole shore; but it is a singular fact that they only frequent that part of it which lies towards Kamtschatka.

Ursine Seals live in families, each male being surrounded by from eight to fifty females, whom he watches with the most vigilant jealousy, and treats in the most tyrannical manner. They are of an irritable disposition, and have frequent battles. So tenacious are they of life that they will live a fortnight after receiving wounds which would be speedily mortal to other animals.

### THE BOTTLE-NOSED SEAL.

THIS variety of the Seal is usually found in the seas around New Zealand, the island of Juan Fernandez, and the Falkland islands. The male of this species measures from fifteen to twenty feet in length, and differs from the female in having a large snout, which projects five or six inches beyond the extremity of the upper jaw, and which, when irritated, it inflates, so as to give to it the appearance of an arched or hooked nose. The quantity of blubber contained between the skin and the flesh is so great, it being at least a foot in depth in the largest, that the animal, when in motion, looks like an immense skin filled with oil. This quantity of fat probably contributes to render the Bottle-nosed Seal of so lethargic a disposition, that it is not easily to be compelled to move, and, consequently, is easily killed. It divides its time almost

equally between the land and sea, and lives in herds, each of which seem to be under the direction of a large male, which seamen term the Bashaw, from the circumstance of his driving away females from the other males, and appropriating them to himself. At a distance from each herd, some of the males are placed as sentinels, and by them the alarm is loudly given in case of danger.

### THE LEONINE SEAL.

THE Leonine Seal is, in general, of a reddish brown hue, and is distinguished by a large stiff curled mane and waved hair, which cover the head and neck of the male, and from which it has received the name of the Sea Lion. It has a large head and eyes; a turned up nose, somewhat like that of a pug dog; and conical erect ears. At a certain age it becomes gray. In the form of its feet it resembles the Ursine Seal. The male is often from fifteen to eighteen feet in length, and weighs sixteen hundred pounds. The female is seldom more than half of that size.—These animals reside in families, each male having from two to four females, which he treats with great affection. They do not, as has been supposed, graze on shore; but their food consists entirely of fish, penguins, and marine animals. During the breeding season they are said to fast for a long time, and to become extremely emaciated; but, at intervals, they swallow large stones, for the purpose of keeping the stomach distended.—The flesh of the young is said to be excellent food, and their fat is as delicious as marrow. To hunt these creatures is reckoned by the Kamtschatdales one of the most honourable of occupations.

## THE COMMON OTTER.



Of the Otter tribe there are eight species known, of which, however, it will be necessary for us to describe only two. Otters have six sharpish cutting teeth in each jaw, the lower of which do not range in a line with the rest, two of them being placed somewhat within the others. The canine teeth are also longer than the others. Webbed feet are common to all the varieties of this tribe, which are likewise characterized by very long bodies and short legs.

The Common Otter is of a deep brown colour, and is usually about two feet in length from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail; the head and nose are broad and flat; the mouth bears some similitude to that of a fish; the neck is short, and equal in thickness to the head; the body long; the tail broad at the insertion, but tapering off to a point, and about sixteen inches long; the eyes are very small, and placed nearer to the nose than is customary in quadrupeds. The legs are very short, but remarkably strong, broad, and muscular, and so placed as to be capable of being brought into a line with the body,

and performing the office of fins; and each foot is furnished with five toes, connected by strong broad webs, like those of water-fowl.

These voracious animals are generally found at the sides of lakes and rivers, but particularly the former, in which they destroy so much more than they devour, that they will sometimes spoil a pond in the space of a few nights. They do equal mischief by tearing in pieces the fishermen's nets, which they infallibly do, whenever they happen to get entangled in them.—In forming its retreat the Otter displays great sagacity. It makes the entrance under water, burrows upwards, provides several cells to retire to in case of floods, and opens on the surface a small orifice for the admission of air, which orifice it contrives so as to be concealed by a thick bush.—The female goes with young about nine weeks, and generally produces four or five at a time. These are always found at the edge of the water; and, if under the protection of the dam, she teaches them, on the approach of an enemy, to plunge like herself, into the deep, and escape among the weeds or rushes that fringe the stream. It is therefore, only in the absence of the dam, that the young can be taken; and in some places there are dogs purposely trained for discovering their retreats.

If taken while young, the Otter may be tamed and taught to fish for its master, and will become almost as affectionate and docile as the dog.

### THE SEA OTTER.

THIS harmless, playful, and interesting animal is generally about four feet long, thirteen inches of which are occupied by the tail. The fur is of great value, it being soft and of a deep glossy black. It has long been exported in great quantities by the Russians,

who receive eighty or a hundred rubles from the Chinese for each skin. The Sea Otter is to be found only within a very few degrees of latitude, in the North Pacific; its range being mostly confined to the coast of Kamtschatka, the adjoining islands, and the opposite American shore.

Sea Otters are perfectly inoffensive, and so sportive that much of their time seems to be passed in playing diverting tricks. They live in pairs, and are very constant to each other. Such is their fondness for their young, that they will never abandon them; on being robbed of them, they will starve themselves to death; and will endeavour to breathe their last on the spot where their offspring were destroyed.

### THE BEAVER.



At the present period Beavers inhabit only the northern parts of Europe and Asia, and North America, in which latter country they are principally found; but there is the best reason to believe that, in former times, they were natives of Great Britain, in which a high value was set upon them. There are no animals which possess a greater share of natural sagacity than they do; a fact which is abundantly proved by a variety of circumstances.

The Beaver is the only quadruped that has a flat broad tail, covered with scales, which serves as a rudder to direct its motions in the water ; and that has membranes between the toes in the hind feet only, and none on the fore feet, which supply the place of hands, as in the squirrel. It is about two feet long, and nearly a foot high. Its colour is a light brown, the hair is of two sorts ; the exterior being long and coarse, the interior soft, short, and silky. The teeth resemble those of a rat or a squirrel, but are longer, and admirably adapted for cutting timber, or stripping bark ; to which purposes they are continually applied.

These animals begin to assemble about the months of June and July, to form a society that is to continue for the greatest part of the year. They arrive in numbers from every side, and generally form a company of above two hundred. Their rendezvous is commonly the place where they fix their abode, and this, which is made with astonishing ingenuity, is always by the side of some lake or river.—Each of them is said to have his task assigned to him, which he strictly performs. Persons who are accustomed to hunt these animals, know perfectly well, that green wood is much more acceptable to them than that which is old and dry. Hence they plant a considerable quantity of it round their lodgments ; and as they come out to partake of it, they either catch them in snares, or take them by surprise. In winter, when the frosts are very severe, they sometimes break a large hole in the ice ; and when the Beavers resort thither for the benefit of fresh air, they either kill them with hatchets, or cover the aperture with a large substantial net. After this they undermine and subvert the whole fabric : upon which, the Beavers flee with the utmost precipitation to the water, and, plunging into the opening, fall directly into the net.

The Beaver is a mild inoffensive animal, and instances are on record of its having been domesticated.



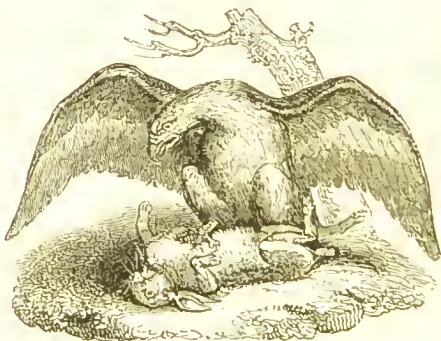
Its skin forms so considerable an article of traffic that, at length, it seems not improbable that the species will be exterminated. The Hudson's Bay company has sold about fifty-four thousand at one sale; and in 1798, no fewer than one hundred and six thousand were collected in Canada, and exported to Europe or China. The medicinal substance which is called castor is a product of the inguinal glands of the Beaver, and each individual usually produces about two ounces of it.

### THE DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS.

NEW HOLLAND, which, among other living curiosities, has supplied us with that *rara avis* the black swan, is also the country that produces this anomalous animal, one of the strangest sports of nature, as it combines the bill of a bird with the usual characteristics of a quadruped. So singular is this union, that it was at first supposed to be the trick of some person, for the purpose of imposing on collectors. When the creature was first discovered it received the allusive name of *Ornithorhynchus Paradoxicus*; but it has since been denominated the *Platypus Anatinus*, or Duck-billed Platypus. It has a depressed body, somewhat resembling that of an otter in miniature, which is covered with a soft fur, dark brown above, and of a ferruginous white beneath. The head is flattish, and the snout so exactly resembles that of some broad-billed species of duck, that it might easily be mistaken for such. The tail is flat, furry, and of the same colour as the body. The length of the whole animal, from the tip of the beak to that of the tail, is thirteen inches; of the beak an inch and a half. The legs are very short, and terminate in a broad web, which on the fore feet extends to a considerable distance beyond the claws; but on the hind feet reaches no farther than the roots

of the claws. On the upper part of the head, on each side, a little beyond the beak, are situated two oval white spots, in the lower part of each of which the eyes are embedded.

From the general form of this animal, and particularly its bill and webbed feet, it may naturally be concluded, that it resides in watery situations; that it has the habit of digging or burrowing in the banks of rivers, or under ground; and that its food consists of aquatic plants and animals.



# NATURAL HISTORY

## OF

### BIRDS.

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OF all the classes of the animated creation, there is no one more calculated at once to afford pleasure and excite astonishment than that which consists of the feathered tribes. That a living creature, often of great magnitude, should be able to traverse rapidly and to remain buoyant in so thin a medium as the atmosphere, is alone sufficient to excite wonder. When we come to examine the means by which this is effected, we shall find abundant reason to admire the wisdom of the Creator, in so perfectly adapting each part to answer its intended purpose. The feathers are furnished with glands to secrete an oily matter, that they may not absorb wet; the bones are exceedingly light, yet strong; the muscles which belong to the wings are of such magnitude that they constitute not less than one-sixth of the body; air vessels are extended through the whole frame, to prevent the respiration from being stopped

by the rapidity of flight; the sight is piercing, and the eyes are defended from injury by a membrane, which can be dropped over them at will; and the shape of the bird is that which is the most proper for moving rapidly, with the least possible resistance, through the regions of air.

According to the Linnean system, which, however, we shall not rigidly follow in our arrangement, the Land Birds are divided into four classes; the Rapacious Birds (*accipitres*); the Pies (*picae*); the Passerine Birds (*passeres*); and the Gallinaceous Birds (*gallinae*): the Water Birds consist of two classes, the Waders (*grallae*); and the Swimmers (*anserres*). Of the Rapacious Birds, the bills are hooked, and there is an angular projection on the upper mandible; of the Pies, they are sharp edged, compressed on the sides, and convex on the upper surface; of the Passerine Birds, conical and sharp pointed; of the Gallinaceous Birds, the upper mandible is considerably arched; the Waders have a roundish bill, and a fleshy tongue; and of the Swimmers, the bills are broad at the top, and covered with a membranaceous skin.

## THE OSTRICH.



As in some measure connecting the class of quadrupeds with that of the feathered race, the Ostrich is, perhaps the bird which is entitled to claim our attention first. In external appearance it bears some resemblance to the camel; its internal conformation allies it to quadrupeds; it grazes with animals; and its plumage gives the idea rather of hair than of feathers.

The Ostrich is generally seven and sometimes nine feet high, from the top of the head to the ground, but from the back it is only four; so that the head and neck are above three feet long. From the top of the head to the rump, when the neck is stretched out in a right line, the length is six feet, and that of the tail about

a foot more. One of the wings, when stretched out, is about three feet; and at the end of each wing there is a kind of spur, almost like the quill of the porcupine. The plumage is generally black and white; the upper part of the head and neck are covered with fine white hair, and in some places there are small tufts of it, which grow from a single shaft, about the thickness of a pin. The neck of this animal, which is of a livid flesh colour, seems to be more slender in proportion than that of other birds, from its not being furnished with feathers: the head and bill somewhat resemble those of a duck; and the external form of the eye is like that of a man's, the upper eyelids being adorned with lashes which are longer than those on the lid below. The thighs are large, fleshy, and wrinkled in the manner of a net; the legs are covered before with large scales; the foot is cloven, and has two toes of unequal sizes.

These animals seem formed to live among the sandy and arid deserts of the torrid zone; and in those regions they are seen in large flocks, which, to the distant spectator, appear like a regiment of cavalry, and have often alarmed a whole caravan. There is no spot, however steril, but what is capable of supplying them with provision, as they are of all creatures the most voracious, and possess surprising powers of digestion. Hence they will devour leather, hair, stones, or any thing that is given to them, and those substances which the coats of the stomach cannot soften, are excluded in the form in which they were swallowed. In Southern Africa they are exceedingly injurious to the farmers; as they will destroy a field of wheat so effectually as not to leave a single ear behind; and this operation they perform without danger to themselves, as they are so vigilant, and so swift, that it is almost impossible to get a shot at them. If at all aided by the wind, the Ostrich flaps its wings, and it then moves so rapidly that the fleetest horse cannot overtake it.

The Ostrich is a polygamous bird; one male having two or three, and sometimes five females. It is a common, but an erroneous idea, that the female abandons her eggs, leaving to the heat of the climate the care of hatching them. The warmth of the atmosphere does, indeed, render a very close attention to them unnecessary during the day; but she never deserts them, and during night she carefully performs the task of incubation; even the male takes his turn of sitting upon them.

The Ostrich may be tamed without difficulty, and becomes very tractable and familiar with those with whom it is acquainted.

### THE TOUYOU.

THIS bird, which is chiefly found in Guiana, along the banks of the Orinoco, in the inland provinces of Chili and Brazil, and on the vast forests that border the mouth of the Plata, is second only to the ostrich in magnitude, and is the largest bird of the new continent. Buffon is of opinion that it ought not to be classed with the ostrich tribe. It is usually about six feet high, from its head to the ground. The head is small, the neck long, the body round, and the wings short, and entirely unfit for flying. Its thighs are remarkably thick; its legs are three feet long, and it differs from the ostrich in having an additional toe on each foot. It has no tail, but is covered from the back with long feathers, which fall backward and cover the rump. It moves very swiftly; but in its course it uses a very odd kind of action, lifting up one wing, which it keeps elevated for a time, till letting it drop, it raises the other. In this motion it seems to be assisted by a kind of tubercle behind, like a heel, upon which, on plain ground, it treads very securely. The fleetest hounds are frequently thrown out in pur-

suing it: and we are told of one, which on being surrounded by the hunters, darted among the dogs with such irresistible fury, that they immediately gave way, and thus enabled it to escape in safety. During incubation, the Touyou is said to make a false nest, at some distance from the true one, in which two eggs are laid. These eggs the old one breaks, and by thus attracting a number of flies, beetles, &c. procures the means of sustenance for the young. When first hatched, the young are so familiar that they will follow strangers; but, as they grow older, they become cunning and distrustful. The flesh, especially before it is hardened by age, is good to be eaten.

### THE CASSOWARY.



THE Cassowary is a native of South Eastern Asia, the islands of the Indian Archipelago, and a part of the African coast. A large species is also found in New Holland. In its appearance it is singular. Its body is extremely heavy, and its wings are so short that it



cannot rise from the ground. Each wing is composed of five very strong quills, which are, in fact, so many spines, serving as defensive weapons. On the top of the head is a blackish brown protuberance of bone, covered with horn, forming a kind of helmet. It is with reference to its spines and crest, that the Cassowary has been said to have the head of a warrior, and the weapons of the porcupine. The beak, which is five inches long, is of an exceedingly hard substance, and somewhat curved. The skin of the head and neck is naked, of a fine blue colour above, and red below, and on each side of the front of the neck hangs a long light blue caruncle or wattle, bearing some analogy to the gills of a cock. The globe of the eye is of a bright yellow, and, being an inch and a half in diameter, it has a formidable expression, which has occasioned it to be compared to the eye of a lion. The Cassowary is about five feet and a half long, from the point of the bill to the extremity of the claws; the head and neck together are eighteen inches; the legs, which are remarkably stout, are two feet and a half; and the largest toe, including the claw, is five inches long. The feathers are generally double, having two long shafts issuing from a short one which is fixed in the skin. The beards at the end of the large feathers are perfectly black, under which there is a kind of down of a tawny colour. At a distance the feathers have the appearance of hair.

In their wild state, these birds lay, at each time, three or four greenish or grayish coloured eggs, beautifully spotted with grass green, and having white marks towards the smaller end. In general, the female covers them with sand, and leaves the hatching of them to the solar heat. But, under different circumstances, she performs the office of incubation like other birds.

In the coarseness of its taste the Cassowary resembles the ostrich. It will swallow almost any thing

that is not too large to pass down its throat. Of the eggs of poultry, and of fruit, it is particularly fond. It cannot, however, eat any kind of grain; the tongue being so formed as not to be able to guide it down the throat.

The Cassowary is a strong and active bird, defends itself vigorously, and kicks in a very dangerous manner with its feet, both before and behind. It is sometimes found of an irritable temper, particularly when excited by the sight of persons in ragged and dirty or red clothes; but in general, it is of an inoffensive disposition.

### THE DODO.

WHAT the sloth is among animals, at least as far as regards clumsiness and slowness of motion, that the Dodo is among birds. It has nothing of the elegance and rapidity of the feathered race; but is, on the contrary, of singular unwieldiness and inactivity. Its massive and almost cubical body is awkwardly supported on two short pillarlike legs; its neck is thick and puffy; and its two chaps are of such enormous size, that, when the bird gapes, it seems to be all mouth. The bill is of an extraordinary length, of a bluish white colour, and resembles two pointed spoons laid together by the backs. From all this results a stupid and voracious aspect, still further increased by a border of feathers round the beak, which forms a sort of hood. It has wings, covered with soft ash-coloured feathers, but they are too short to assist it in flying; its tail, consisting of a few curled feathers, is displaced and disproportionate, its body is too fat to allow of exertion, and its legs are too short for running. Its stupidity is equal to its deformity; so that it is very easily taken. It is a native of the Isle of France; and the Dutch, who first discovered it

there, called it in their language, the nausous bird, because they considered its flesh to be as bad as its figure is disgusting. Later observers, however, assert that it furnishes a good and wholesome food.

## THE CONDUR.

THE Condur, or Condor, is an inhabitant of South America. It belongs to the vulture tribe, and in size considerably exceeds the largest eagle. The wings, when expanded, have sometimes been found to extend to eighteen feet; but from ten to thirteen feet seems to be the usual measure. The great wing feathers, which are of a shining black, are two feet four inches long. The strength and size of its body, bill, and talons are in proportion, and its courage equals its muscular powers. The throat is naked and of a red hue. A short down of a brown colour clothes the head, and its eyes are surrounded with a circle of reddish brown. The plumage on the breast, neck, and wings is of a light brown; that on the back rather darker, and sometimes of a jet black. The legs, which are strong and large, are covered with black scales, and the toes are armed with claws of the same colour.

A Condur is said to be able to devour a whole sheep, and some writers have even affirmed that two will kill and devour an ox. They commit great devastations among the flocks, and have been known to carry off young children. In consequence of this, they are much dreaded by the natives of South America, and many means of destroying them are adopted. They make their nests among the most lofty and inaccessible rocks, and the female lays two white eggs, somewhat bigger than those of a turkey.

## THE VULTURE.



OF this class of birds the principal are the Golden or Carrion Vulture, the Aquiline or Egyptian Vulture, the Cape Vulture, and the Brazilian Vulture. In one point they all have a perfect resemblance; they are filthy, indolent, and rapacious, and the smell of them is offensive. The Golden Vulture, which, if we except the Condur, seems to be at the head of the tribe, is about four feet and a half long, from the end of the beak to that of the tail, and generally weighs about four or five pounds. The head and neck are only covered with a few scattered hairs, and the latter is covered with a red skin, which at a distance gives to the creature the look of a turkey; and the eyes are more prominent than those of the eagle. The whole plumage is dusky, mixed with purple and green; the legs are of a dirty flesh colour, and the claws are black. The male Aquiline Vulture is entirely white, except the quill feathers, which are black, edged with

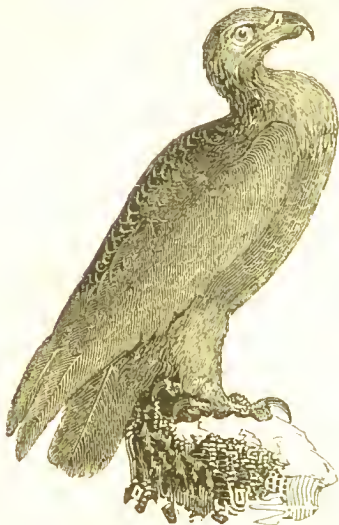
hoary ; but the female is brown, with the same exception of the quill feathers. The Cape Vulture bears a great similarity to the last species, but its head is of a bright blue colour, covered with a yellowish down, and its plumage is somewhat of a coffee colour.

Though totally unknown in England, the Vulture is common in many parts of Europe ; and in Egypt, Arabia, and many other kingdoms of Africa and Asia, he is found in great abundance. In Egypt, and particularly in Grand Cairo, there are great flocks of them, which render a most important service to the inhabitants, by devouring all the filth and carrion, which might otherwise render the air pestilential. The ancient Egyptians were so sensible of the utility of this bird that they made it a capital crime to put one of them to death.

In Brazil these birds may be deemed peculiarly serviceable, from the circumstance of their checking the increase of the Crocodile tribe. The female crocodile frequently lays her eggs, to the number of one or two hundred, on the side of the river, and covers them carefully with the sand, to conceal them from all other animals. In the mean time a number of Vultures watch her motions from the branches of some neighbouring forest ; and, on her retiring, they encourage each other with loud cries, pour down upon the spot, lay the eggs bare, and devour them in a few moments. In Palestine they do infinite service by destroying the swarms of rats and mice, which, did they not thin them, would eat up all the fruits of the ground.

Vultures make their nests in the most remote and inaccessible rocks, and produce but once a year. Those of Europe, indeed, seldom come down into the plains, except when the rigours of winter have banished from their native retreats all living animals but themselves. They are capable of enduring hunger for an extraordinary length of time. Their flesh is lean, stringy, and altogether nauseous.

## THE GOLDEN EAGLE.



AMONG birds the Eagle is usually considered to hold the same place that the lion does among beasts. Buffon has drawn between them a parallel which displays his usual eloquence. "Magnanimity," says he, "is equally conspicuous in both; they despise the small animals, and disregard their insults. It is only after a series of provocations, after being teased with the noisy or harsh notes of the raven or magpie, that the Eagle determines to punish their temerity or their insolence with death. Besides, both disdain the possession of that property which is not the fruit of their own industry; rejecting with contempt the prey which is not procured by their own exertions. Both are remarkable for their temperance. This species seldom devours the whole of his game, but, like the lion,

leaves the fragments and offals to other animals. Though famished for want of prey, he disdains to feed upon carrion. Like the lion, also, he is solitary; the inhabitant of a desert, over which he reigns supreme, excluding all the other birds from his silent domain. It is perhaps even more uncommon to see two pairs of Eagles in the same tract of mountain, than two families of lions in the same part of the forest. They separate from each other at such wide intervals, as to afford ample range for subsistence; and esteem the value and extent of their domain to consist in the abundance of prey with which it is replenished. The eyes of the Eagle have the glare of those of the lion, and are nearly of the same colour; the claws are of the same shape; the organs of sound are equally powerful, and the cry equally terrible. Destined, both of them, for war and plunder, they are equally bold, fierce, and untractable. It is impossible to tame them, unless they be caught in their infancy." It may be allowed that this parallel holds good in all its points but one, that which respects the voice of the Eagle, which is a piercing treble, possessed of no grandeur, while that of the lion is a deep and dreadful bass.

Of all his tribe, the Golden Eagle is the largest and most majestic. He measures three feet in length, seven feet and a half from tip to tip of the wings, and weighs fourteen pounds. The head and neck are clothed with narrow pointed feathers, of a deep brown colour, bordered with tawny: the whole body also is of a dark brown, the back being finely clouded with a deeper shade of the same: the tail is brown, irregularly barred with an obscure ash colour. The beak is of a deep blue, and the eye of a hazel colour. The legs are yellow, strong, and feathered to the very feet; and the toes are armed with formidable claws.

Elevated rocks, and ruined solitary castles and towers are the places which the Golden Eagle chooses for its abode. Unlike the nests of other birds, which are hollow, its nest is flat; the basis consisting of

sticks about five or six feet in length, supported at each end, and covered with several layers of rushes and heath. It is about two yards square, and is said to serve for the bird during its whole life. The female hatches her eggs in thirty days, and never lays more than two or three.

The Eagle may be tamed, if taken early; but even in its domesticated state it will resent the slightest ill usage. Nor is it at all prudent to arouse their anger, as, such is their strength, that scarcely any quadruped can cope with them, and a man has been known to be killed by a single flap of their wing. The Eagle is a long lived bird; it is certain that one of them has been kept in confinement for a hundred years; and it is able to sustain the want of food for at least three weeks, a degree of abstinence of which very few animals are capable.

### THE BLACK, OR COMMON EAGLE.

THIS bird is found in all climates, hot as well as cold, and usually inhabits the most perpendicular and inaccessible rocks. It is about two feet ten inches in length, and the general colour of its plumage is blackish. The head and upper parts of the neck are, however, mixed with yellow, while the lower half of the tail is white with blackish spots, the other half blackish. It is so powerful as to be able to kill a dog that is much larger than itself. The Abbé Spallanzani having forced one of these animals into an apartment where he kept an Eagle, "the bird immediately ruffled the feathers on its head and neck, cast a dreadful look at its victim, and, taking a short flight, immediately alighted on its back. It held the neck firmly with one foot, by which the dog was prevented from turning his head to bite, and with the other grasped one of his flanks, at the same time driving its talons into the body; and in this attitude it continued, till the dog expired with fruitless cries and efforts. The



beak, which had hitherto been unemployed, was now used for making a small hole in the skin: this was gradually enlarged; and from this, the bird began to tear away and devour the flesh, and went on till he was satisfied." Little can be said for the humanity of the man who thus satisfied his curiosity, as to the mode in which the Eagle attacks its prey.

### THE OSPREY, OR FISHING-EAGLE.



THIS bird is nearly as large as the Golden Eagle, measuring in length three feet and a half, but its expanded wings do not reach above seven feet. Its bill is large, much hooked, and of a bluish colour: irides in some light hazel, in others yellow: a row of strong bristly feathers hangs down from its under bill next to its throat, whence it has been termed the Bearded Eagle: the top of the head and back part of the neck are dark brown, inclining to black: the feathers on the back are variegated by a lighter brown, with dark edges; the scapulars are pale brown, the edges nearly

white; the breast and belly whitish, with irregular spots of brown; the tail feathers are dark brown, the outer edges of the exterior feathers whitish; the quill feathers and thighs are dusky: the legs and feet yellow; the claws, which are large, and form a complete semicircle, are of a shining black, and have one singularity in their conformation, the outer toe being capable of turning easily backward, which enables the animal to hold its prey more firmly.

It is found in various parts of Europe and America. It is, however, wide dispersed, and was met with at Botany Island by Captain Cook. It lives chiefly on fish; its usual haunts are by the sea shore; and it also frequents the borders of large lakes or rivers; and is said to see so distinctly in the dark, as to be able to pursue and catch its prey during the night. The nest is built on the ground among reeds, and the female lays three or four white eggs, which are rather smaller than a hen's. Frequent contests take place between the Bald Eagle and the Osprey; the former endeavouring to deprive the latter of the prey which it has caught.

### THE SECRETARY FALCON.



THIS curious bird resembles the common Falcon in its head, bill, and claws; but its legs are so long that,

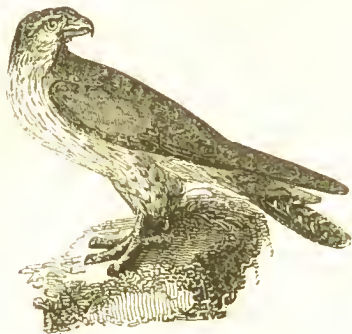
when it stands upright, it is not much unlike the crane. When standing erect, it measures about three feet from the top of the head to the ground. It is a native of the interior of Africa, Asia, and the Philippine islands. The general colour of the plumage is a bluish ash; the tips of the wings, the thighs, and the vent inclining to black. On the back of the head are several long dark coloured feathers, hanging down behind, and capable of being erected at pleasure. This crest induced the Dutch colonists at the Cape to give it the name of the Secretary; the Hottentots, however, style it the Serpent-eater, from the avidity with which it catches and devours those noxious reptiles. The manner in which it seizes them displays great intelligence. On approaching them it carries forward the point of one of its wings, in order to parry their venomous bites, and waits till it finds an opportunity of spurning or treading on its adversary, or taking him on his pinions and throwing him into the air. When he has at last thus wearied him out, he kills and devours him at his leisure.

M. le Vaillant witnessed one of these combats. Finding itself inferior in strength, the serpent endeavoured to regain his hole, but the Falcon by a single leap got before him, and cut off his retreat. On whatever side the reptile strove to escape, the enemy still faced him. The serpent then erected himself to intimidate the bird, and, hissing dreadfully, displayed his menacing throat, inflamed eyes, and a head swollen with rage and venom. Sometimes this produced a momentary suspension of hostilities; but the bird soon returned to the charge, and, covering her body with one of her wings as a buckler, struck her enemy with the bony protuberance of the other. The serpent at last dropped, and the bird laid open his skull with one stroke of her beak.

This singular bird may easily be tamed, and it becomes very domestic and familiar. Though, if severely pinched with hunger, it will then devour ducklings and

chickens; yet, if well fed, it will live with the poultry on amicable terms, and when it sees any of them quarreling, will run to part the combatants. Unlike all the rest of the feathered race, these birds always strike forward with their legs when they fight.

### THE FALCON.



THIS very elegant bird, which is larger than the goshawk, is a native of the cold climates of the north, and is found in Russia, Norway, and Iceland; but it is never seen in warm, and seldom in temperate climates: it is found, though rarely, in Scotland and the Orkneys. Next to the eagle, it is the most formidable, active, and intrepid of all voracious birds, and is most esteemed for falconry. It is transported from Iceland and Russia into France, Italy, and even into Persia and Turkey; nor does the heat of these climates appear to diminish its strength, or blunt its vivacity. It boldly attacks the largest of the feathered race; the stork, the heron, and the crane are easy victims: it kills hares by darting directly upon them. The female, as in all other birds of prey, is much larger and stronger than the male, which is used in falconry to catch the kite, the heron, and the crow.

Its bill is much hooked, and yellow; the iris is dusky; the throat white, as is likewise the general colour of the plumage, but spotted with brown; the breast and belly are marked with lines, pointing downwards; the spots on the back and wings are larger; the feathers on the thighs are very long, and of a pure white; those of the tail are barred: the legs are of a pale blue, and feathered below the knee.

There is another of this tribe, called the PEREGRINE or PASSENGER FALCON, which is rarely met with in Britain, except in the rocks of Caernarvonshire, or the Highlands of Scotland, and consequently is but little known with us. It is as large as the moor buzzard; its bill is blue at the base, black at the point; the ceres and irides are yellow; the upper parts of the body are elegantly marked with bars of blue and black; the breast is of a yellowish white, marked with a few small dusky lines; the belly, thighs, and vent are of a grayish white, crossed with dusky bands; the quills are dusky spotted with white; the tail is finely barred with blue and black: the legs are yellow; the claws black.

### THE KITE.



OF the falcon tribe the Kite is the best known, and the most ignoble. He may be distinguished from

others of the same class by his forked tail, and the slow circular eddies which he describes in the air previous to pouncing on his prey. He appears, indeed, to rest himself upon the air without making the smallest effort in flying. As, however, almost every bird of flight is able to elude his pursuit, he subsists only on accidental carnage; and may be considered as an insidious thief, who, on finding a small bird wounded, or a young chicken strayed from its mother, improves the moment of calamity to his own advantage. Sometimes indeed his hunger urges him to acts of desperation. We have seen one fly round and round, for a while, to mark a clutch of chickens, and then suddenly dart upon the unresisting little animal, and carry it off; the parent hen in vain crying out, and the boys hooting and casting stones, to scare it from its plunder.

This bird is common in England, where it continues the whole year. It is found in various parts of Europe, in very northern latitudes, whence it retires towards Egypt before winter, in great numbers; it is said to breed there, and return in April to Europe, where it breeds a second time, contrary to the nature of rapacious birds in general. The female lays two or three eggs of a whitish colour, spotted with pale yellow, and of a roundish form.

In size the Kite is bigger than the common buzzard, he has large eyes, yellow legs and feet, and black talons. The head and back are of a pale ash hue, which is varied across the shafts of the feathers by longitudinal lines. His neck is reddish; the feathers covering the inside of the wings are red, with black spots in the centre; and the lesser rows of the wing feathers are party-coloured, black, red, and white.

## THE COMMON BUZZARD.



THE Common Buzzard, which is one of the most widely known kinds of hawk in this country, is about twenty inches in length, and four feet and a half in breadth, when measured across the expansion of the wings. The lower parts of the body are pale, varied with brown; on the upper parts dusky bars of a darker hue mark the wings and tail, the latter of which is grayish beneath, and tipped with dusky white. The legs are yellow, the claws black, and the bill lead coloured, short, and hooked.

Though strong and active, the Buzzard is so cowardly that he will fly even from the sparrow-hawk, and, when he is overtaken, will allow himself to be beaten, and cast to the ground, without making any resistance. His indolence is equal to his cowardice, as he will sit perched on the same bough during the greatest part of the day. Such is his laziness, that he seldom constructs a nest, but contents himself with repairing the old nest of a crow, and lining it with

wool and other soft materials. Rats, mice, and often all sorts of carrion, are his articles of subsistence.

It is but fair, however, that justice should be done to the good qualities of the Buzzard. He may be tamed; and, in his domestic state, he manifests a very strong attachment to his owner. Buffon has given a highly amusing account of one which was reclaimed from the wild state by the Rector of St. Pierre de St. Belesme, and which displayed much of the sagacity and affection of a dog. "After having shut it up about six weeks," says he, "I began to allow it a little liberty, taking the precaution, however, to tie both the pinions of its wings. In this condition it walked out in my garden, and returned when I called it to feed. After some time, when I judged that I could trust to its fidelity, I removed the ligatures; and fastened a small bell, an inch and a half in diameter, above its talon, and also attached to its breast a bit of copper, having my name engraved on it. I then gave it entire liberty, which it soon abused; for it took wing, and flew as far as the forest of Belesme. I gave it up for lost; but four hours afterwards, I saw it rush into my hall, pursued by four or five other Buzzards, which had constrained it to seek again its asylum. After this adventure, it preserved its fidelity to me, coming every night to sleep on my window." It would also sit by and caress him at dinner, and follow him when he was on horseback. This bird had a remarkable antipathy to wigs, and particularly to red caps, which it never failed to snatch from the wearers, and deposit in a very high tree, that served as a storehouse for its plunder. It is still more to the credit of the Buzzard that it is a most kind and assiduous parent; and Ray affirms that, should the female chance to be killed, the male will take charge of the young ones, and rear them till they can provide for themselves. The eggs of this bird are whitish spotted with yellow.



## THE MOOR-BUZZARD.



This bird is about twenty-one inches in length, with a black bill, and yellow cere and eyes. The whole crown of the head is of a yellowish white, lightly tinged with brown; the throat is of a light rust colour: the rest of the plumage is of a reddish brown, with pale edges; the greater wing-coverts are tipped with white: the legs are yellow; and claws black.

Rabbits, young wild ducks, and other water fowl are the prey of this bird; which will likewise feed on fish, frogs, reptiles, and even insects. Its haunts are in hedges and bushes, near pools, marshes, and rivers that abound with fish. It builds its nest a little above the surface of the ground, or in hillocks covered with thick herbage: the female lays three or four eggs of a whitish colour, irregularly sprinkled with dusky spots. Though smaller, it is more active and bold than the Common Buzzard, and when pursued, it faces its antagonist, and makes a vigorous defence.

Birds of this kind differ much: in some the crown and back part of the head being yellow: while some are uniformly of a chocolate brown, with a tinge of rust colour.

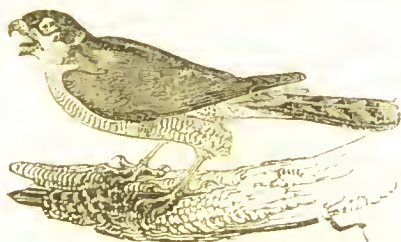
## THE GOSHAWK.



THIS bird is somewhat longer than the buzzard, but more slender and beautiful, and is one foot ten inches in length. Its bill is blue, tipped with black; the cere green; the eyes yellow: over each eye there is a whitish line: the head and all the upper parts of the body are of a deep brown colour; and each side of the neck is irregularly marked with white: the breast and belly are white, with a number of wavy lines or bars of black; the tail is long, of an ash colour, and crossed with four or five dusky bars; the legs are yellow, and the claws black; the wings are much shorter than the tail.—It feeds on mice and small birds, and eagerly devours raw flesh; it plucks the birds very neatly, and tears them into pieces before it eats them, but swallows the pieces entire; and frequently disgorges the hair rolled up in small pellets.

The Goshawk is found in France and Germany; it is not very numerous in this country, but is more frequent in Scotland; where it breeds in lofty trees, and destroys large quantities of game. It is also common in North America, Russia, and Siberia. There is in Chinese Tartary a variety which is mottled with brown and yellow, and is used for sporting by the nobility.

## THE SPARROWHAWK.



This bird is somewhat larger than a common pigeon, the male being about twelve inches in length, and the female fifteen. It has a short hooked blue bill, with yellow cere, slender reddish legs, and rather a long tail. The colour of the eye is a bright orange. The plumage on the wings and upper parts of the body is brown, spotted with a yellowish dun; the lower parts in some are whitish; in others of a russet colour.

The head is flat at the top, and above each eye is a strong and bony projection; a few scattered spots of white form a faint line running backward towards the neck: the top of the head and all the upper parts of the body are of a dusky brown colour; on the back part of the head there is a faint line of white; the scapulars are marked with two spots of white on each feather; the greater quill feathers and the tail are dusky, with four bars of a darker hue on each; the inner edges of all the quills are marked with two or more large white spots; the tips of the tail feathers are white; the breast, belly, and under coverts of the wings and thighs are white, beautifully barred with brown; the throat is faintly streaked with brown: the legs and feet are yellow; claws black.

The Sparrowhawk is very numerous in various parts of the world, from Russia to the Cape of Good

Hope. The female builds in high rocks, lofty ruins, or hollow trees, but will sometimes condescend to take up with the old nest of a crow. Four or five is the number of eggs which she lays, and they are marked with reddish spots at the longer end. The Sparrow-hawk is more easily trained and made docile than most of the rapacious tribes, and when domesticated it is susceptible of great attachment to its owner. In its wild state, it commits enormous havoc among the smaller race of birds; and it is an object of particular dislike to the farmer, as it sometimes makes destructive visits to the poultry yard, and is so daring that it is not to be intimidated from the pursuit of its prey even by the presence of mankind.

### THE MERLIN.



THE Merlin is in size little larger than the blackbird, and is consequently the smallest of the hawk kind. Its bill is blue; the cere and irides are yellow: the head is of a rust colour, streaked with black, and edged with rust colour: the quill feathers are dark, tipped and margined in the inner webs with reddish white; the breast and belly are of a yellowish white, with streaks of rusty brown pointing downwards; the

tail is long, and marked with alternate dusky and pale bars; the wings, when closed, do not reach quite to the end of the tail: the legs are yellow; and claws black.

Small as it is, this bird is not inferior in courage to any of the falcon tribe. It was formerly used for taking larks, partridges, and quails, which it would frequently kill by a single blow, striking them on the breast, head, or neck. It differs from the falcons, and all the rapacious kind, in the male and female being of the same size.

The Merlin does not breed here, but visits us in October. It flies low, and with great swiftness and ease. It preys on small birds, and breeds in woods, laying five or six eggs.

### THE BUTCHER BIRD.



OF this curious bird there are two species, the Butcher Bird, and the Little Butcher Bird. The former, which is also called the Nine Killer, is known in the north of England by the name of Waryangle. It is about the size of a thrush, and has a strong black bill, nearly an inch long, which is hooked at the end; this, together with its carnivorous appetites, ranks it among birds of the rapacious class: though the slenderness

of its legs, and the formation of its toes, seem to make it a shade between them and such as subsist chiefly upon grain and insects. The head, back, and rump are ash coloured, but the chin and belly white. Dark lines, crossing each other, vary the breast, and lower part of the throat. The tips of the wing feathers are for the most part white.—The habits of this bird seem perfectly analogous to its conformation, as it lives as well upon flesh as upon insects, and thus seems to partake, in some measure, of a double nature. His name of Nine Killer he derives from the popular belief that he catches small birds to the number of nine, and impales them on a thorn, before he begins to tear them to pieces to satisfy his hunger. The fact is, that he pays no such attention to the regularity of number, but, being a bold bird, capable of killing much bigger birds than himself, he hangs his prey on a thorn, as a hunter does a beast on a hook, that he may dissever it with more convenience to himself.

The nest of the female, which is built among thorny shrubs and dwarf trees, is composed on the outside of white moss interwoven with long grass, and the interior is comfortably lined with wool. The female lays five or six eggs. It is also worthy of remark, that instead of driving out their young, like other birds of prey, to shift for themselves, they keep them with care, and even when adult they do not forsake them, but the whole brood live in one family together, till on the returning season of courtship they separate, each to establish a little household of its own.

The Little Butcher Bird, which is called a FLUSHER, is about the size of a lark, and has a large head. The back and upper side of his wings are of a rusty colour; the throat and breast white, with red spots, and the head and rump cinereous. The nest of this bird is formed of grass, and the female lays six eggs, nearly all white, except at the blunt end, which is encircled with brown or dark red marks.

## THE OWL.



OF Owls there are about fifty species, of which, however, it is not necessary here to notice more than three; the Great Horned or Eagle Owl, the White Screech Owl, and the Brown Owl. It has not unaptly been said of these birds that they are to falcons that which moths are to butterflies; as, generally speaking, they prey only in the night time, while the falcon never preys but in the day. The head of the Owl is round, somewhat like that of a cat, of which animal, indeed, the bird has all the mice-destroying propensities. The eyes also of the Owl, like those of the cat, are so constructed that its visual faculties are far more perfect in the dusk than in the glare of day. Owls retire in the winter to holes in old walls and towers, and pass the inclement season in sleep. In most countries the Owl is foolishly considered as a bird of ill omen, but it was anciently courted by the Athenians, and regarded as the favourite bird of Minerva.

The GREAT HORNED EAGLE, which, though rare in this country, is a native of most parts of Europe, Asia, and America, takes up its abode in inaccessible rocks

and desert places, and is equal in size to some of the eagles. It possesses a stronger sight than any other of the Owl tribe, and, in consequence, is sometimes seen pursuing its prey in open daylight. To its offspring it is very affectionate, and if they are taken from the nest and confined, it will assiduously supply them with food. This, however, is accomplished with such secrecy and sagacity, that it is almost impossible to detect it in the act. The wings of this bird are long, and its tail is short, and marked with transverse dusky streaks. Its legs, which are thick, are of a brick-dust red hue, and, except in one variety, are feathered quite down to its large, hooked, and dusky claws. The body is of a tawny red colour, prettily variegated with brown, ash, and rust coloured spots. Of Horned Owls there are twenty species, and the name is derived from the long feathers which surround the opening of the ears, and bear a resemblance to horns.

The WHITE or SCREECH OWL is common in England, where it frequents churches, old houses, and uninhabited buildings. The singular cry which it emits during its flight, and which weak persons cannot hear without terror, is the source of its name. As its sight is very defective during the day, it never, if it can avoid it, begins its predatory excursions till twilight. If, by any chance, it is seen in the daytime, it is pursued and tormented by all the smaller birds. The plumage of this species has much elegance; all the superior parts of the body being of a fine pale yellow, mottled with white spots, while the under parts are entirely white, and a circle of soft white feathers surrounds each of the eyes. The legs are feathered to the claws. The sense of hearing in the Screech Owl is very acute. Since the time of Genghis Khan the Mongal and Kalmae Tartars have held the White Owl sacred, in consequence of one of the species having settled on a bush under which the prince hid himself from his enemies after a defeat.



The pursuers passed the bush, but did not examine it, as they imagined that a bird would not have perched where a man was concealed.

The BROWN OWL, which is also common in England, is rather more than a foot in length. The breast is of a pale ash colour, marked with dusky, longitudinal streaks, and the head, wings, and back are spotted with black. Round the eye is an ash coloured circle, spotted with brown. This is a very rapacious bird, and frequently commits great depredations in pigeon-houses. It breeds in ruined buildings and hollow trees, and, in defence of its young, will attack even mankind with great courage. Mice are among their favourite articles of food, and they skin them with as much dexterity as a cook maid skins a rabbit.

### THE COCK.



OF all other birds the Cock seems to have been first reclaimed from the forest, and taken to supply the accidental failure of the luxuries or necessities of life. As he has thus been longest under the care and protection of man, so of all others he seems to exhibit the greatest number of varieties; there being scarcely

two birds of this species that exactly resemble each other in form and plumage. The tail, which makes such a beautiful figure in the generality of these animals, is entirely wanting in some; and the feathers, which lie so sleek and regular in most of those we are acquainted with, are in a peculiar breed all inverted, and stand the wrong way.

In his native state of independence, as seen in the woods on the coast of Malabar, and in many islands of the Indian ocean, the plumage of this bird is black and yellow, and his comb and wattles are yellow and purple; and it is peculiarly worthy of observation that the bones of this species, when boiled, are as black as ebony.—The varieties noticed above, with many others too tedious for enumeration, may be considered as indubitable marks of long captivity.

No animal has greater courage than the Cock when opposed to one of his own species, and in every part of the world where refinement and polished manners have not entirely taken place, the brutal diversion of Cock fighting is a favourite sport. In China, India, the Philippinc Islands, and all over the East, it is delighted in even by kings and princes.—This bird is very attentive to his females, and sometimes perfectly infuriate in defence of his offspring. A young one has been known to dart on a sparrow-hawk, and to hold down the rapacious intruder till assistance came to secure him.

The Hen seldom clutches a brood of chickens above once a season, though instances have been known to the contrary. Provided, however, she be well fed and supplied with water, she will lay upwards of two hundred eggs in the course of a year. During the period of incubation nothing can exceed her patience and perseverance; and when her little offspring are produced, her pride and her affection seem to alter her very nature, and render her equally bold and abstemious on their account, though naturally timid and voracious.

## THE PEACOCK.



To describe, in adequate terms, the dazzling beauties of this elegant bird, would be a task of no small difficulty. Its head is adorned with a tuft, consisting of twenty-four feathers, whose slender shafts are furnished with webs only at the ends, painted with the most exquisite green, mixed with gold: the head, throat, neck, and breast, are of a deep blue, glossed with green and gold; the greater coverts and bastard wings are of a reddish brown, as are also the quills, some of which are variegated with black and green; the belly and vent are black, with a greenish hue: but the distinguishing character of this singular bird is its train, which rises just above the tail, and, when erected, forms a fan of the most resplendent hues: the two middle feathers are sometimes four feet and a half long, the others gradually diminishing on each

side: the shafts, white, and furnished from their origin nearly to the end with parted filaments of varying colours ending in a flat vane, which is decorated with what is called the eye. The real tail consists of short, stiff, brown feathers, which serve as a support to the train. When pleased or delighted, and in sight of his females, the Peacock erects his train, and displays all the majesty of his beauty: all his movements are full of dignity; his head and neck bend nobly back; his pace is slow and solemn, and he frequently turns slowly and gracefully round, as if to catch the sunbeams in every direction, and produce new colours of inconceivable richness and beauty, accompanied at the same time with a hollow murmuring voice expressive of desire. The cry of the Peacock, at other times, is often repeated and very disagreeable. The plumes are shed every year, and, while moulting them, the bird, as if humiliated, retires from view.

The Peahen is somewhat less than the cock, and though furnished both with a train and crest, is destitute of those dazzling beauties which distinguish the male. She lays five or six eggs, of a whitish colour: for this purpose she chooses some secret spot, where she can conceal them from the male, who is apt to break them: she sits from twenty-five to thirty days, according to the temperature of the climate, and the warmth of the season. These birds were originally brought from the distant provinces of India, and thence have been diffused over every part of the world.

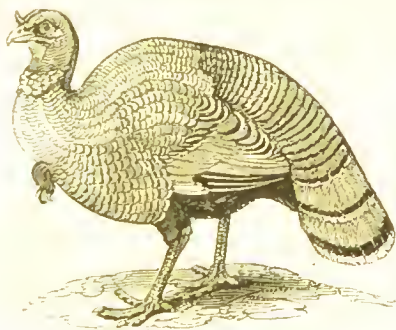
The female of this species, like the pheasant, have been known to assume the appearance of the male, by a total change of colour: this is said to take place after they have done laying.

White Peacocks are not uncommon in England; the eyes of the train are barely visible, and may be traced by a different modulation of shade upon the pure white of the tail.

Peacocks are found wild in Africa and Asia; but

the finest kind are found on the plains of India, and in the neighbourhood of the Ganges. They were highly esteemed by the Romans, and the Bible mentions them among Solomon's importations from the East. In the days of chivalry also, they were in such great request as to be the subject of a knightly oath.

### THE TURKEY.



TURKEYS were first introduced into England, from North America, in the reign of Henry VIII. and began to form an article in our Christmas feasts about the year 1585. When young, the Turkey is generally considered as one of the tenderest of birds; yet in its wild state it is found in great plenty in the forests of Canada, which are covered with snow above three parts of the year. It is there also much larger than in a state of captivity, as it sometimes weighs forty, and even sixty pounds; and its feathers are much more beautiful, being of a dark gray, bordered at the edges with a bright gold colour.

The hunting of these animals forms one of the principal diversions of the Canadian, as their flesh contributes to the support of his family. Having dis-

covered their retreat, which is in general near fields of nettles, or where there is plenty of grain, he sends his dog into the midst of the flock; and though the Turkeys soon outstrip their pursuer by running, he continues to follow, till he at last forces them to take shelter in a tree, whence they are knocked down by a long pole, and easily taken.

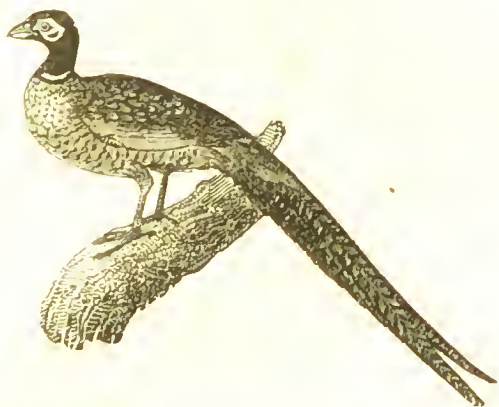
Though extremely addicted to quarreling among themselves, they are, in general, weak and cowardly against other animals, and are seen to fly from almost every creature that will venture boldly to oppose them. Even the domestic cock is often able to put them to flight. On the contrary, they pursue every thing that appears to dread them, particularly lap-dogs and children: particularly if the latter have about their dress any thing of scarlet, to which they have the utmost antipathy. After having made these objects of their aversion scamper, they evince their pride and satisfaction by displaying their plumage, strutting among their female train, and uttering their peculiar note of self-approbation. Some instances, however, have occurred, in which the Turkey Cock has exhibited a considerable share of courage and prowess. In one instance, a Turkey Cock was known to attack and drive off a hawk, which was about to pounce on a bantam hen.

The female seems of a more gentle disposition than her consort. Rather querulous than bold, she hunts about in quest of grain and insects, and is particularly fond of the eggs of ants and caterpillars. She lays about eighteen or twenty eggs, and when her young begin to follow her in search of food, she rather warns them of danger than prepares to defend them. She lays her eggs in spring, and generally in some retired place, that they may not be found by the cock, who is apt to break them, in consequence of his being enraged by the necessary absence of his partner. Such is her perseverance in the duty of incubation, that she

will often perish of hunger than leave the nest; and when the young ones are hatched, she treats them with great affection.

Turkeys are gregarious in their wild state, and are seen in flocks of more than five hundred. They perch on the summits of the very loftiest trees, so as to be out of the reach of musket shot. In England, Norfolk, Suffolk, and a few other counties are the principal sources whence the metropolitan supply of this bird is derived, and they are reared in such numbers as to form a considerable article of commerce.

### THE PHEASANT.



IN chasteness and pure elegance of colouring there is, perhaps, no bird which surpasses the Pheasant, or, indeed, equals it. All is rich and beautiful, but nothing is gaudy. The top of the head and upper part of the neck are tinged with a darkish green, which shines like silk, and sometimes appears to change to

blue, as it is differently presented to the eye of the spectator. The plumage on the breast, the shoulders, the middle of the back, and the sides under the wings, has a blackish ground, with edges tinged of an exquisite purple, and under this is a transverse streak of gold colour. The length of the tail from the middle feathers to the root is about eighteen inches. The plumage of the female, however, is inferior to that of the male. The iris of the eye is yellow, and the eyes themselves are surrounded by a scarlet colour, sprinkled with small specks of black.

The Pheasant is said to have been originally brought into Europe from the banks of the Phasis, in Asia Minor, and to have been at first artificially propagated in this country. But, notwithstanding the coldness of our climate, and the tenderness of its constitution, it has multiplied in a wild state; and, as if disdaining the protection of man, has left him, to take shelter in the thickest woods and the remotest forests. In fact, this spirit of independence seems to attend the Pheasant even in captivity. In the woods the female lays from eighteen to twenty eggs in a season; but in a domestic state she seldom produces above ten. In the same manner, when wild, she hatches and brings up her brood with patience, vigilance, and attention; but when kept tame, she sits so ill, that a hen is generally her substitute upon such occasions. On all accounts, therefore, this bird seems better adapted to range at large in the woods than to be brought up in a state of captivity. Its fecundity, when wild, is sufficient to stock the forest: its beautiful plumage adorns it; and its flesh acquires a higher and more delicious flavour from its unlimited freedom.

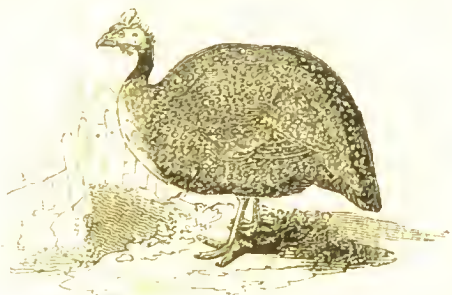
Pheasants are found in most parts of England, but are rare in the north, and still more so in Scotland. In Cornwall, however, the race is nearly, if not quite, extinct. Their wings are short, and ill adapted for considerable flights. In some respects these birds



seem to be stupid, but they have, on the other hand, been known occasionally to display great intelligence, in using such stratagems as would enable them to ensure their safety.

Of this, as of all other domestic fowl, there are several varieties ; such as white, crested, and spotted Pheasants ; but, of all others, the Golden Pheasant of China is the most beautiful.

### THE PINTADO, OR GUINEA FOWL.



This bird is originally a native of Africa, but has been long naturalized in this country. Among the Romans it was in great request for the table, and brought a proportionably high price. In England, they are now considered as a delicacy, and not without reason. In their wild state they associate in numerous flocks.

The Guinea Fowl is about the size of a common hen, but, being supported on longer legs, it looks much larger. Its head is covered with a kind of helmet ; the back is round ; and the tail turned downward, like that of a partridge. The whole plumage is black, or dark gray, diversified with white spots ; and the wattles, proceeding from the upper chap, give it a very

peculiar aspect. All their habits resemble those of the poultry kind, and they agree in every other respect, except that the male and female can only be distinguished by the colour of their wattles; those of the cock being of a bluish cast, while in the hen they are more inclining to red. The voice of the Guinea Fowl is extremely harsh and discordant. In our climate the females lay but five or six eggs in a season; but in their native regions they are far more prolific. The eggs are smaller than those of the domestic hen, but have a harder shell.

### THE BUSTARD.



OF the Bustard tribe there are about twelve species, most of which are inhabitants of the Old Continent: they have bills somewhat convex, long legs, naked above the knees, and only three toes, all of which are placed forward. The Great Bustard is a native of

England, and is the largest of our land fowls, as the male sometimes weighs upwards of twenty-five pounds. The male of this variety differs in one remarkable respect from the female ; which is, in being furnished with a pouch in the fore part of the neck, capable of containing above two quarts of water. This water the animal can eject with such violence as not unfrequently to baffle the attacks of birds of prey. The Bustard is nearly four feet in length, and nine in breadth. Its neck is a foot long, and its legs eighteen inches. The head and neck of the male are ash coloured ; the back is barred transversely with bright rust colour and black ; the belly is white, and the tail, which consists of twenty feathers, is barred with red and black. The female is little more than half as large as the male, and her colours are less bright. The top of her head is of a deep orange, and the remaining part is brown. She also varies from the male in not having a tuft on each side of the head.

Bustards are exceedingly timid ; they carefully shun mankind ; and herds of them will take flight from the smallest dog. They take wing slowly, but run with great rapidity. Green corn, the tops of turnips, other vegetables, and worms, supply their principal food. They are by no means common, but they may be met with in all the open counties from Dorsetshire to Yorkshire. The young ones are sometimes run down by greyhounds.

The female makes her nest upon the ground, by merely scraping a hole, or selecting a hollow, in a dry corn field, and lining it with a little straw or long grass. She lays two eggs, of a pale olive brown, diversified with dark spots ; and the young ones run about as soon as they are hatched. Should any one even breathe on the eggs, while she is absent from them, she immediately abandons them.

## THE WOOD-GROUS, OR COCK OF THE WOOD.



THIS bird, which is nearly the size of a turkey, often weighs twelve or fourteen pounds ; but the female is considerably smaller. The head and neck are ash coloured and crossed with black lines ; the body and wings of a chestnut brown ; and the breast is of a blackish glossy green. The female differs very much in her plumage.

This bird is chiefly found in mountainous and wooded situations ; though in summer he occasionally ventures from his retreats, to make short depredations on the corn fields. While living in the recesses of the forest he attaches himself principally to the oak and the pine tree ; the cones of the latter serving him for food, and the branches affording him a habitation. He also feeds upon cranberries, ant's eggs, and insects ; and his gizzard, like that of domestic fowls, contains a quantity of gravel, which is supposed to assist his powers of digestion.

The Wood-grouse begins early to feel the genial influence of spring ; and its courtship may be said to continue till the trees are entirely clothed with foliage

and the forest is in full verdure. At sunrise and setting, during this season, he may be seen extremely active upon one of the largest branches of a pine tree; his tail raised and expanded like a fan, his wings drooping, his neck stretched out, and his head swollen and red. His cry upon this occasion is a kind of loud explosion, followed by a noise like the whetting of a scythe; and as he now seems entirely deaf and insensible of danger, this is the time that sportsmen generally take to shoot him. Upon all other occasions he is the most timid and vigilant of birds.

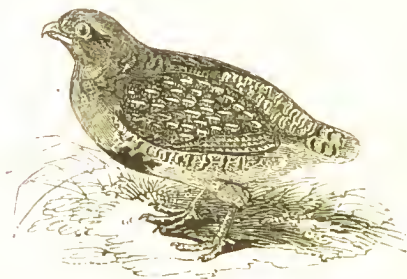
The female generally chooses a dry place and a mossy ground for the purpose of incubation. She lays six or seven eggs, which are white and marked with yellow; and while sitting she is so remarkably tame and tranquil, that it is not easy to force her from her nest. When obliged to quit her eggs in quest of food, she covers them up so artfully with moss and dry leaves, that it is extremely difficult to discover them.

The BLACK COCK, the Grouse commonly so called, and the PTARMIGAN, are all birds of a similar nature with the preceding, and are chiefly found in heathy mountains, or piny forests, at a distance from the haunts of man. The Black Cock (which derives its name from the colour of its plumage, though that of the female resembles a partridge,) is about the size of a common hen, and is only found in the islands of Scotland. The Grouse is about half as large again as the partridge, and its colour like that of a woodcock, but redder. The Ptarmigan is still somewhat less, and its plumage of a pale brown, or ash colour. These are all distinguishable from other birds of the poultry kind, by a naked skin, of a scarlet colour, above the eyes, in the place and of the figure of eyebrows.

In most of the northern parts of Europe, even as far as Greenland, a bird of this species is met with, called the WHITE-GROUSE; at times it visits the highest hills in Scotland, in the Hebrides and Orkneys, and

sometimes, but rarely, the lofty hills of Cumberland and Wales. The female lays eight or ten eggs, which are white, spotted with brown: she makes no nest, but deposits them on the ground. In winter they fly in flocks, and are so little accustomed to the sight of man, that they are easily shot or taken in a snare. They feed on the wild productions of the hills, which sometimes give their flesh a bitter taste.

### THE PARTRIDGE.

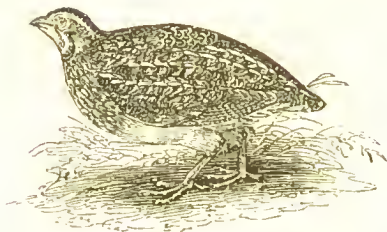


THIS bird is about thirteen inches in length. The general colour of its plumage is brown and ash, elegantly mixed with black; each feather is streaked down the middle with buff colour; the sides of the head are tawny; the eyes are hazel, and under each eye there is a small saffron coloured spot, which has a granulated appearance, and between the eye and the ear is a naked skin of a bright scarlet, which is not very conspicuous but in old birds; on the breast there is a crescent of a deep chestnut colour: the tail is short: the legs are of a greenish white, and are furnished with a small knob behind. The bill is of a light brown. The female has no crescent on the breast, and her colours in general are not so distinct and bright as those of the male.

Partridges are found principally in temperate climates; the extremes of heat and cold being unfavourable to them. Yet they exist in Greenland, where, in winter, their plumage becomes white, and they acquire a thick and warm down. In Sweden they burrow under the snow to shelter themselves from the cold. They are no where in greater plenty than in this island, where, in their season, they contribute to the gratification of the epicure, their flesh being delicious.

These birds pair early in the spring; the female lays from fourteen to eighteen eggs, and makes her nest of dry leaves and grass upon the ground. The young birds learn to run as soon as they are hatched, frequently encumbered with part of the shell sticking to them. It is no uncommon thing to introduce Partridges' eggs under the common hen, who hatches and rears them as her own: in this case the young birds require to be fed with ants' eggs, which are their favourite food, and without which it is almost impossible to bring them up; they likewise eat insects, and when full grown, feed on all kinds of grain and young plants. The affection of the female for her young is peculiarly strong and lively: she is greatly assisted in the care of rearing them by her mate; they lead them out in common, call them together, point out to them their proper food, and assist them in finding it by scratching the ground with their feet; they frequently sit close by each other, covering their young with their wings like the hen. In this situation they are not easily flushed; but when, at length, they are compelled to move, the male employs many interesting stratagems, such as fluttering along the ground, hanging his wings, and feigning to be wounded, in order to attract the pursuit of the enemy, and afford to the female an opportunity to escape with her infant brood. Partridges, though tamed when young, will almost invariably return to the wild state.

## THE QUAIL.



LIKE the partridge, of which, however, though exactly the same in form, it is not more than half the size, this bird is excellent food. The feathers on the head are black, edged with rusty brown; the breast is of a yellowish red, spotted with black; and the plumage on the back is marked with lines of pale yellow. In its nature and habits it resembles the poultry kind. The female makes her nest like the partridge, and lays six or seven eggs of a grayish colour speckled with brown, which are hatched in three weeks.

Quails are birds of passage, and are universal throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa; in the autumn they are seen in immense flocks traversing the Mediterranean sea, from Europe to the shores of Africa, and returning again in the spring, frequently alighting on many of the islands of the Archipelago, which they almost cover with their numbers. On the western coasts of the kingdom of Naples, and on the shores of Provence, such prodigious flights have appeared, that a hundred thousand have been taken in a day within the space of four or five miles.

Quails are exceedingly irascible and courageous, and their quarrels often terminate in mutual destruction. The Greeks and Romans pitted them, as we do game cocks, and the same practice is at this day carried on in some parts of Italy, and in China.



## THE TRUMPETER.

THIS bird, which is an inhabitant of the mountains and upland forests of South America, associates in numerous flocks, and derives its name from the singular noise which it makes, either of its own accord, or when urged by its keeper. This equivocal noise, which somewhat resembles the moan of a pigeon, is, says Mr. Bingley, "at times preceded by a savage cry, interrupted by a sound approaching that of *scherck*, *scherck*. In this way the bird utters five, six, or seven times, with precipitation, a hollow voice emitted from within its body, nearly as if one pronounced *tou, tou, tou, tou, tou, tou*, with the mouth shut, resting upon the last *tou* . . . a very long time, and terminating by sinking gradually with the same note."

It is about the size of a large fowl, with a moderately long bill; the general plumage of the body black, with the fore part of the neck, and upper part of the breast, of a fine changeable green. The legs are naked and scaly a little above the knees, with three toes placed before and one behind.

This bird is easily tamed, and becomes greatly attached to its benefactor. When bred in the house, it loads its master with caresses, and even follows him through the streets like a dog. It has, however, far more than a dog, the Turkish propensity of hearing "no rival near its throne;" for it will fight, with dogs, cats, and even men, whom it suspects of sharing the kindness of the person to whom it is attached. The Trumpeter, it is said, may be trained to attend a flock of sheep.

The peculiar sound, whence it has acquired its name, the Trumpeter may be induced to make, by being enticed with a bit of bread, at the same time that the person offering it imitates the natural note of the bird.

## THE RAVEN.



THE Crow tribe, of which this bird is the largest species, have strong bills, with the upper mandibles a little bent, sharp-edged, and generally with a small notch near the tip. Three of the toes are placed forward, and one backward, and the middle toe is united to the outer one as far as the first joint. They are clamorous, prolific, and strictly faithful to their mates. Their manners, as may naturally be supposed, are very various: but they all agree in a few general characters; namely, in having hoarse voices, active bodies, and a facility of flight that baffles in the pursuit even the boldest of the rapacious kinds. Among the ancients this bird was esteemed of much importance in augury.

The Raven is about two feet in length, and four in breadth. Its bill is strong, and very thick at the base; it measures somewhat more than two inches and a half in length, and is covered with strong hairs or bristles, which extend above half its length, covering the nostrils: the general colour of the upper parts is a fine glossy black, reflecting a blue tint on par-

ticular lights; the under parts are duller, and of a dusky hue. The female builds in high trees, lays five or six pale green eggs, spotted with brown, and sits about twenty days, and performs the task of incubation with the most rigid perseverance. If, for a moment, she leaves the nest, the male takes her place.

This bird is found in every region of the globe, and seems careless of all changes of weather: for when other birds are benumbed with cold, or pining with famine, he is busily employed in seeking for prey, or sporting in the coldest atmosphere. Sometimes, indeed, he is seen perfectly white, which may probably be the effect of the rigorous climate of the north; but in all situations he appears lively and healthy.

In his wild state the Raven is an active and greedy plunderer. Nothing comes amiss to him; for whether his prey be living or completely putrescent, he falls to with a voracious appetite, and after satiating himself, he flies to acquaint his fellows, that they may participate of the spoil. His scent is so exquisite, that he can discover carrion at an immense distance, even when the state of the atmosphere is peculiarly unfavourable. When shell-fish are his prey, he carries them up into the air, and drops them, in order to break the shells.

If taken when young, the Raven may be trained up for almost any purpose to which a bird can be converted: he may be taught to fetch and carry like a dog, to speak like a parrot, or even to sing like a man. In this state his tricks are highly amusing. He teases the poultry, attacks the dogs, but takes particular care to win the good graces of the cook. The propensity which, in common with others of his tribe, he has, to steal and hide money, plate, or any shining substance, has sometimes been productive of disagreeable consequences in families.

## THE CARRION CROW.

LESS in size than the Raven, this bird resembles it in habits, colour, and external appearance. It is about eighteen inches in length; its breadth above two feet. Crows are more numerous than ravens, and as widely spread. They live mostly in woods, chiefly in pairs, and build their nests on trees: the female lays five or six eggs much like those of a raven. They remain in England all the year. They feed on putrid flesh of all sorts; likewise on eggs, worms, insects, and various sorts of grain. Even pigeons, rabbits, chickens, and young ducks are not safe from their attacks. The Crow is a bold bird; neither the kite, buzzard, nor raven can approach its nest without being driven away; and when it has young, it will even fall upon the peregrine falcon, and bring it to the ground by a single stroke of the bill.

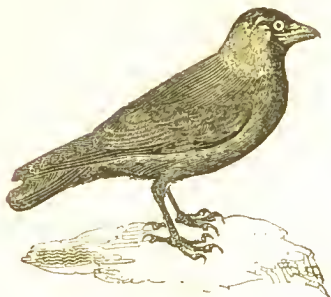
## THE ROOK.



THE Rook is about the size of the carrion crow, and, excepting its more glossy plumage, very much resembles it. The base of the bill and nostrils, as far as

the eyes, is naked, in which it differs from all the rest, occasioned, it is said, by thrusting its bill into the earth in search of worms: but as the same appearance has been observed in such as have been brought up tame and unaccustomed to that mode of subsistence, we are inclined to consider it an original peculiarity. Rooks are useful in preventing a too great increase of that destructive insect the chafer or dor-beetle, and thereby make large recompense for the depredations they may occasionally commit on the corn fields. They are gregarious, and fly in immense flocks at morning and evening to and from their roosting places in quest of food. During the breeding time they live together in large societies, and build their nests on the tallest trees close to each other, frequently in the midst of large and populous towns. These rookeries, however, are often the scenes of bitter contests; the new comers are frequently driven away by the old inhabitants, their half built nests torn in pieces, and the unfortunate couple forced to begin their work anew in some more undisturbed situation. But though bad neighbours, the males are good husbands, as they begin to feed the hens before the latter commence laying, and continue to do so through the whole season of incubation. The Rook is a bird of great sagacity. Dr. Darwin remarks, that Rooks are obviously more conscious of danger from mankind than most other birds are. Whoever has paid the least attention to them may perceive that they are quite sensible of the danger being greater when a man is armed with a gun than when he has no weapon with him. If, in the spring of the year, a person with a gun walk under a rookery, the inhabitants of the trees rise on their wings, and scream to the unfledged young to cower into their nests from the sight of the enemy. This uniformly occurs, and hence the country people assert that Rooks can smell gunpowder.

## THE JACKDAW.



THIS bird is considerably less than the rook, being only thirteen inches in length. The head is large, and the bill long, in proportion to the body. The eyes are white, and the hinder part of the head and neck are of a hoary gray colour; the rest of the plumage is of a fine glossy black above; beneath it has a dusky hue: the legs are black. It remains with us the whole year, and in great flocks frequents churches, old towers, and ruins, and sometimes, though rarely, even chimneys, hollow trees, and rabbit burrows, where it builds its nest: the female lays five or six eggs, paler than those of the crow, and smaller. Jackdaws are easily tamed, and may be taught to pronounce several words: they will conceal part of their food, and with it small pieces of money or toys. They feed on insects, grain, fruit, and small pieces of flesh, and are said to be fond of partridges' eggs. They have also been seen to catch fish.

There is a variety of this bird in Switzerland, which has a white collar round its neck; and in Norway and other cold countries they have been found perfectly white.

### THE RED-LEGGED CROW.

It is from the bright and deep orange hue of its legs that this bird derives its name. It is about the size of the Jackdaw, is of an elegant form, and unable to bear severe weather. The Red-legged Crow builds in cliffs and ruinous castles along the shore, and are seldom to be found in this country, except in North Wales and Cornwall. The bill of this bird is long, much curved, sharp at the tip, and of a bright red colour; the plumage is altogether of a purplish violet black: the legs are as red as the bill; the claws are large, much hooked, and black.

The female lays four or five white eggs, spotted with yellow. It is an active and restless bird, and feeds on insects and berries: it is said to be particularly fond of the juniper-berry. Glittering objects attract it, and it has been known to pull from the fire lighted pieces of wood to the no small danger of the house. Thatched houses sustain much injury from it, in consequence of its tearing holes in the straw with its long bill.

### THE MAGPIE.



This lively and handsome bird is common in England, and is found on the Continent, but not so far north as

Lapland, or farther south than Italy. In Norway it is so scarce that the appearance of it is supposed to portend death. It is about eighteen inches in length. The head, neck, and breast are of a deep black, finely contrasting with the snowy whiteness of the under parts; the neck feathers are very long, and extend down the back, leaving only a small space, of a grayish ash colour, between them and the tail coverts, which are black; the plumage in general is glossed with green, purple, and blue, which catch the eye in different lights; the tail is very long and wedge-shaped; the under tail coverts, thighs, and legs, are black; on the throat and part of the neck there is a kind of feathers, mixed with the others, resembling strong whitish hairs.

It feeds, like the crow, on almost every thing animal as well as vegetable, and frequently commits ravages in rabbit warrens, and poultry yards. It never undertakes long journeys, but flies from tree to tree, at moderate distances. The female builds her nest with great art, leaving a hole in the side for her admittance, and covering the whole upper part with a closely-tangled texture of thorny branches, so as to secure her retreat from the attacks of other birds: the inside is furnished with a sort of mattress, composed of wool and other soft materials, on which her young repose: she lays seven or eight eggs, of a pale green colour, spotted with black.

The Magpie is crafty and familiar, and may be taught to pronounce words, and even short sentences, and will imitate any particular noise which it hears. It is addicted, like other birds of its kind, to stealing, and will hoard up its provisions.

In the north of England, if a Magpie be observed flying alone, it is thought a sign of ill luck; two forebode something fortunate; three a funeral; and four, a wedding.



## THE JAY.

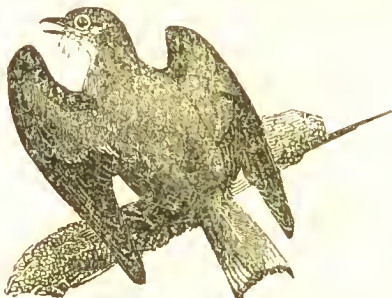


OF British birds the Jay is one of the most elegant. On his forehead is a tuft of white feathers streaked with black, which he can erect at will, and the motions of which are indicative of his feelings. His back and breast are of a delicate cinnamon colour, and his wings are beautifully chequered with black, white, and blue. His voice is harsh, grating, and unpleasant. Upon seeing the sportsman, he gives, by his cries, the alarm of danger, and thereby defeats his aim. The Jay builds in woods, and makes an artless nest of sticks, fibres, and tender twigs; the female lays five or six eggs, of a grayish ash colour, mixed with green, and faintly spotted with brown.

Like the magpie the Jay is talkative and ready to imitate sounds. One of them has been known to mimic so exactly the noise made by the action of a saw, as to induce passengers to believe that a carpenter was at work in the house. Another had learned, when cattle approach, to set a cur dog on them, by whistling and calling him by name. The poor Jay, however, at last paid dearly for his mischievous tricks. Having set his quadruped associate upon a cow which

was big with calf, the cow was much hurt, he was complained of as a nuisance, and his owner was obliged to destroy him.

### THE ROLLER.



THIS rare bird is about the bigness of a jay, and his plumage is of exquisite beauty: it vies with the parrot in an assemblage of the finest shades of blue and green, blended with white, and heightened by the contrast of graver colours, from which perhaps it has been called the German parrot, although in every other respect it differs from that bird. Its bill is black, set with short bristles at the base: the eyes are encircled with a ring of naked skin, of a yellow colour, and behind them is a kind of wart: the head, neck, breast, and belly are of a light pea-green: and the points of the wings and upper coverts of a rich deep blue; the greater coverts pale green; the quills are of a dusky hue, inclining to black, and mixed with deep blue; the rump is blue; the tail is somewhat forked; the lower parts of the feathers are of a dusky green, middle parts pale blue, tips black: the legs are short, and of a dull yellow. It is common in some parts of Germany, but is rarely seen in England, and

is the only one of the Roller tribe which is known in Europe. From the chattering noise which it makes it has the name of the Garrulous Roller. The Chinese, the Cayenne, and the Abyssinian species are distinguished by their brilliant plumage.

### THE STARLING.



This bird is somewhat less than nine inches in length. His bill is straight, sharp pointed, and of a yellowish brown—in old birds deep yellow; the nostrils are surrounded by a prominent rim; the eyes are brown; the whole plumage is dark, glossed with green, blue, purple, and copper, but each feather is marked at the end with a pale yellow spot; the wing coverts are edged with yellowish brown; the quill and tail feathers dusky, with light edges; the legs are of reddish brown. In the hen, the tips of the breast and belly feathers, to the very throat, are white.

Few birds are more generally known than this, it being an inhabitant of almost every climate; and as it is easily trained in a state of captivity, its habits have been more frequently observed than those of most other birds. So fond is it of society, that it will join not only its own kind, but will also associ-

ate with redwings and fieldfares, and even with owls, jackdaws, and pigeons. The female makes an artless nest in the hollows of trees, rocks, or old walls, and sometimes in cliffs overhanging the sea: she lays four or five eggs, of a pale greenish ash colour: the young birds are of a dusky brown colour till the first moult. In the winter season these birds fly in large flocks, and, may be known at a great distance by their whirling mode of flight. M. de Buffon compares it to a sort of vortex, in which the whole collective body performs a uniformly circular revolution, yet progressively advances at the same time.

The principal food of Starlings is snails, worms, and insects; but they will eat grain, seeds, and fruit, and are said to be exceedingly fond of cherries. When confined, they will eat raw flesh cut small, or bread soaked in water. They are accused, we know not how truly, of getting into pigeon houses, to suck the eggs, and it is certain that they do great damage in Lincolnshire, by roosting in myriads on the reeds, which are used for thatching in that country, and which they break down by their weight.

### THE RING OUZEL.

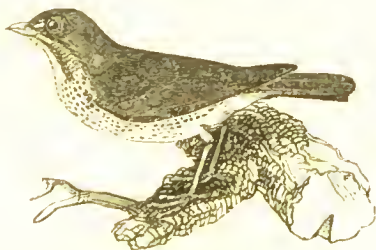


THIS bird is in general of a dull black or dusky hue; each feather is margined with a grayish ash colour;

the bill is dusky ; the corners of the mouth and inside are yellow ; the eyes hazel ; its breast is distinguished by a crescent of pure white, which almost surrounds the neck, and from which it derives its name : its legs are of a dusky brown. The female differs in having the crescent on the breast much less conspicuous, and in some birds wholly wanting, which has occasioned some authors to consider it as a different species, under the name of the Roch Ouzel.

These birds are found in various parts of this kingdom ; but chiefly in the wilder and more mountainous districts. In their habits they resemble the blackbird : the female builds her nest in the same manner, and in similar situations, and lays four or five eggs of the same colour ; they feed on insects and berries of various kinds, and are very fond of grapes.

### THE THRUSH.



THE Thrush tribe includes the Song Thrush, the Fieldfare, the Blackbird, and various other species. Its general character consists in a straightish bill, which bends towards the point, and is slightly notched near the end of the upper mandible ; oval nostrils, mostly naked ; the tongue a little jagged at the end ; a few slender hairs at the corner of the mouth ; and

the middle toe joined to the outer one as far as the first joint.

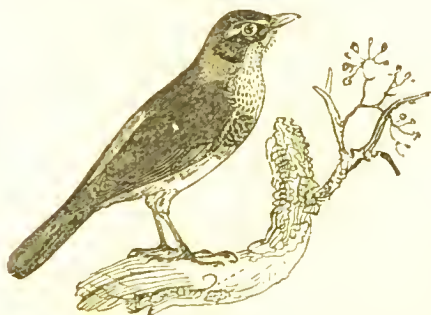
The SONG THRUSH, or THROSTLE, is about eleven inches in length. The bill is dusky, the base of the lower bill yellow; the eyes are hazel; the head, back, and lesser coverts of the wings are of a deep olive brown, the latter tipped with white; the lower part of the back and rump are tinged with yellow; the cheeks are of a yellowish white, spotted with brown, as are also the breast and belly, which are marked with larger spots of a dark brown colour; the quills are brown with pale edges; the tail feathers the same, the three outermost tipped with white; the legs are yellow; the claws black.

It begins to sing very early, often on the turn of the year in blowing showery weather, whence in some places it is called the Storm Cock, and its song is heard during nine months. Its note of anger is very loud and harsh, between a chatter and a shriek, which accounts for some of its names. Its usual strain, however, is among the sweetest of the grove, and is often kept up for hours without cessation. When brought up from the nest with the woodlark or the nightingale, it will adopt their song. It subsists on various kinds of berries, and likewise on caterpillars and several kinds of insects, with which it also feeds its young. One kind, which is larger than the Fieldfare, while the real Song Thrush is smaller, is called the MISSEL THRUSH, from the berries of the misseltoe being its food.

This bird is found in various parts of Europe, and is said to be migratory in some places, but continues in England the whole year, and frequently has two broods. It builds in woods or orchards, and not seldom in thick hedges near the ground. Fine and soft moss, interwoven with dried grass or hay, forms the outside of the nest, and the inside is curiously plas-

tered with cow dung. The female usually lays five or six deep blue eggs, marked with black spots. Buffon says that, in a few of the districts of Poland, Thrushes are sometimes caught in such immense numbers that the inhabitants export small ship loads of them.

### THE FIELDFARE.



THIS bird is somewhat bigger than the song thrush, but less than the missel thrush. It has a yellow bill, and each corner of the mouth is furnished with a few black bristly hairs; the eye is light brown: the top of the head and back part of the neck are of a light ash colour, the former spotted with black; the back and coverts of the wings are of a deep hoary brown; the throat and breast are yellow, regularly spotted with black: the belly and thighs of a yellowish white; the rump is cinereous; the tail brown, inclining to black; and the legs are a dusky yellowish brown; in young birds yellow.

There is a variety of this bird, the head and neck of which are of a yellowish white; the rest of the body nearly of the same colour, mixed with a few

brown feathers; the spots on the breast faint and indistinct; the quill feathers perfectly white, except one or two on each side, which are brown; and the tail marked in a similar manner.

The Fieldfare is only a visitant in England, making its appearance about the beginning of October, in order to avoid the rigorous winters of the north, whence it sometimes comes in great flocks, according to the severity of the season, and leaves us about the latter end of February or the beginning of March, and retires to Russia, Sweden, Norway, and as far as Siberia and Kamtschatka. They breed in Sweden and Norway. They build their nests in high trees, and sit on trees during the day, but always roost on the ground. During the winter they feed on haws and other berries; they likewise eat worms, snails, and slugs.

Fieldfares are sometimes seen singly, but in general form very numerous flocks, and fly in a body: and though they often spread themselves through the fields in search of food, they seldom lose sight of each other, but, when alarmed, fly off, and collect together on the same tree.

There is reason, says Mr. Bingley, to suppose that the flocks of these birds keep a kind of watch to remark and announce the appearance of danger. On any person approaching a tree that is covered with them, they continue fearless, till one at the extremity of the bush, rising on its wings gives a loud and peculiar note of alarm. They then all fly away, except one other, which continues till the person approaches still nearer, to certify as it were the reality of the danger, and afterwards he also flies off, repeating the note of alarm.

The Roman epicures held these birds in such esteem, that they fattened them with crumbs of bread mixed with minced figs, and their flesh is still es-



teemed a delicacy. Varro says that they were birds of passage, which came in autumn, and departed in spring. They must have been in immense numbers; as he declares that they were kept by thousands together in their fattening aviaries.

### THE BLACKBIRD.



WHEN the Blackbird has attained its full growth, it is of a fine deep black, the bill is of a bright yellow, and the edges of the eyelids are yellow. While it is young it has a dusky bill, and rusty black plumage, so that it is not to be distinguished from the female.

This beautiful and well known songster is one of the first that proclaims the genial spring, and his note, when heard at a distance, is the most pleasing of all the grove; though it is rather unpleasant in a cage, being loud and deafening. His strains are continued from early dawn till late in the dusk.—It is a solitary animal, generally found in sequestered woods, or other retired situations. It feeds on worms, snails, insects, &c. At snails it gets by dexterously dashing them against the stones, in order to break the shell. When domesticated it will eat any sort of flesh meat, either raw or dressed, provided it be not

salt. The female builds an artificeal nest, well plastered on the inside with earth, and afterwards lined with fine dry grass, and she usually lays four or five bluish eggs, thickly covered with pale rust coloured spots.

### THE CUCKOO.



MONOTONOUS as is the note of the Cuckoo, for it cannot be called a song, it is always heard with pleasure, because it is inseparably connected with our ideas of reviving spring. When emitting it, the bird is very seldom seen, as his shyness induces him to hide himself in thickets. There is a popular superstition that he who hears the Cuckoo before he has heard the nightingale will be unsuccessful in love. To this Milton elegantly alludes in his Sonnet to the Nightingale.

This singular bird is about fourteen inches in length, shaped somewhat like a magpie, and distinguished from all other birds by its round prominent nostrils. The head, neck, back, and wing coverts are of a dove colour: the throat is a pale gray; the breast and belly are white, crossed with wavy lines of black; the tail

consists of ten feathers;—the two middle ones black, with white tips;—the others dusky, and marked with alternate spots of white on each side of the shaft. The legs are of a yellow colour, and the claws white.—The plumage of the young birds is chiefly brown mixed with a ferruginous hue and black.—Its principal food consists of flesh and insects.

The female Cuckoo, soon after her arrival in England, which is early in the spring, prepares to forward the grand design of Nature, in the propagation of her kind: unlike all other birds, however, she neither provides a nest, nor betrays the least solicitude for the production of her young; but deposits her solitary egg in the nest of some other bird, and most generally in that of the hedge sparrow; this intrusion often occasions some disorder, for the hedge sparrow, at intervals, while she is sitting, not only throws out some of her own eggs, but sometimes injures them in such a manner that they become addled; so that it frequently happens that not more than two or three of the parent bird's eggs are hatched; but it has never been observed that the egg of the Cuckoo has either been thrown out or injured. The newly hatched Cuckoo itself also contrives to raise up the young, and throw them out of the nest, and Nature seems to have provided for its doing so, by giving to it a broad back, with a considerable depression in the middle; which shape it loses as soon as it has no longer any use for it. When the hedge sparrow has set her usual time, and disengaged the young Cuckoo and some of her own offspring from the shell, her own young ones and any of her eggs that remain unhatched are turned out of the nest.

The young bird generally continues three weeks in the nest before it flies; and the foster parent feeds it more than five weeks after this period. Hence it appears, that if a Cuckoo were ready with an egg much sooner than the time pointed out, not a single nestling,

even of the earliest, would be fit to provide for itself, before its parent would be instinctively directed to seek a new residence, and be thus compelled to abandon its offspring; for the Cuckoos take their leave of this country the first week in July.

Such is the account which all naturalists concur in giving of the mode in which the Cuckoo is hatched, and there can be no doubt of its general correctness. It appears, however, equally certain that, in many instances, the Cuckoo performs the office of incubation for its own offspring; the bird having repeatedly been seen in the act of sitting upon the eggs, and feeding the young.

### THE FERN OWL.



THE Fern Owl somewhat resembles the cuckoo, but is easily distinguished from all other birds by the structure of its bill and feet. Its legs are very small in proportion, and feathered half way; and its bill, with reference to the size of its body, is the least which any bird has, and is rather crooked. The Fern Owl has a huge wide mouth and swallow, and on the sides of the upper mandibles, as also beneath the lower, are some black hairs like bristles. The under side of the body is painted with black and red.

This bird is rarely met with in England, but is occasionally found in Yorkshire, Flintshire, and the neighbourhood of London. Rocks, caverns, and ruined buildings are its places of resort; and it constructs a very rude nest in the most retired places, in which it lays five eggs, spotted with white and yellow. It feeds mostly on mice, which it tears into morsels with its bill and claws, and the birds that it kills it is said to pluck before it eats them.

### THE REDWING.

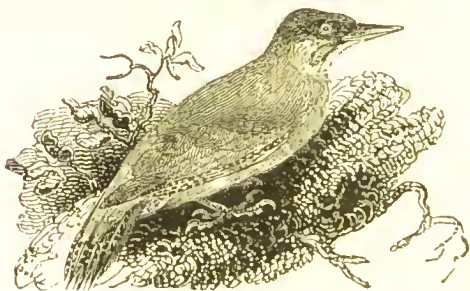


THE Redwing is somewhat less than the thrush, and its plumage in general is similar to that of the thrush, but a white streak over the eye distinguishes it from that bird; the belly is likewise not quite so much spotted, and the sides of the body and the feathers under the wings are tinged with orange red, which is its peculiar characteristic; whence also it derives its name. The bill is of a dark brown colour, and the eyes are of a deep hazel.

These birds make their appearance a few days earlier than the fieldfares, and are commonly seen with

them after their arrival; they frequent the same places, eat the same food, and are very similar to them in manners. Like the fieldfare they leave us in the spring.—The female builds her nest in low bushes or hedges, and lays six eggs, of a greenish blue colour, spotted with black. The note is not so melodious as that of many other birds. It is said, however, that in the maple forests of the north, their native elime, their song is delightful.

### THE WOODPECKER.



THE green Woodpecker is about the size of a jay: the throat, breast, and belly are of a pale greenish colour; and the back, neck, and covert feathers of the wings are green. The bill is straight, strong, and angular, and, in most of the species, is formed like a wedge at the end, for the purpose of piercing the trees. But the tongue is its most distinguished characteristic, as it serves both for its support and defence. This is round, ending in a sharp bony tip, dentated on both sides, like the beard of an arrow, and capable of being thrust out three or four inches from the bill, and drawn in again at pleasure.

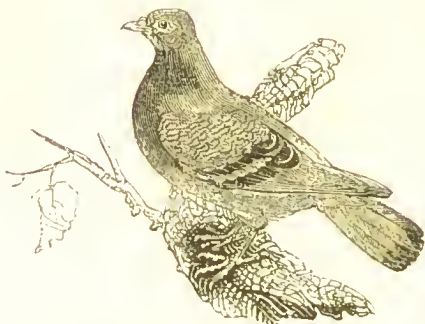
Such is the instrument with which this bird is pro-

vided, and the following is the manner in which it is used.—When a Woodpecker, by its natural sagacity, finds a hollow or decayed tree, where there are worms, ants' eggs, or insects, it immediately prepares for its operations. Resting by its strong claws, and leaning on the tree hard, still, and sharp pointed feathers of its tail, it begins to bore with its powerful beak, until it discloses the whole internal habitation. It then sends forth a loud cry, upon which the whole insect tribe are thrown into confusion, and run hither and thither seeking for safety; while the invader luxuriously feasts upon them with leisure, darting in its long tongue, and devouring the whole brood. Sometimes, also, this bird alights upon the ground to try its fortune at an ant hill, and seldom fails of procuring a rich repast.

The Woodpecker generally chooses for its habitation trees that are decayed, or soft wood, as elm and poplar. In these, with very little trouble, it makes holes as exactly round as a mathematician could with compasses; and here the female deposits her eggs, without any thing to keep them warm, except the heat of her own body. When the young are excluded from the shell, and before they leave the nest, they are adorned with a scarlet plumage, under the throat, which considerably enhances their beauty.

There are various species of Woodpeckers, both in the Old and New World. Of the former we may mention the BLACK WOODPECKER, which is a native of Switzerland, Germany, and the North, and has black plumage, except the head, which is crimson. Of the latter, the most remarkable are the WHITE-BILLED WOODPECKER, called by the Spanish American settlers the Carpenter, from the loud noise that it makes; and the REDHEADED WOODPECKER, a native of North America, which is so highly destructive in the orchards and maize fields that a price was formerly set upon its head.

## THE WOODPIGEON.



ALL the numerous and beautiful varieties of this tribe derive their origin from the Stockdove, or Woodpigeon; which is of a deep bluish ash colour; the breast dashed with a fine changeable green and purple; the wings marked with two black bars; the back white, and the tail barred near the end with black. Such are the colours of the Pigeon in its natural state; and from these simple tints the effects of domestication have produced a variety that words cannot describe, nor even fancy suggest. The Stockdove usually builds in holes of rocks, or in excavated trees. Its murmuring note, at morning and dusk, is highly pleasing.

The RINGDOVE is considerably larger than the former, and derives its appellation from a beautiful white circle round the neck. It is the largest Pigeon of our island; it being eighteen inches in length, and weighing about twenty ounces. This bird builds its nest with a few dry sticks, in the boughs of trees; and is so strongly attached to its native freedom, that



all attempts to domesticate it have hitherto proved ineffectual. Mr. Montague, the naturalist, took considerable pains to procure a domestic breed of them, but, though he succeeded in taming them so as to be troublesome in the house, he could never procure a breed either by themselves or with the tame Pigeon. It is a curious fact, that he bred up together a Ringdove, a white owl, and a sparrow hawk, which lived in amity, but of which the Ringdove was the master.

The CARRIER PIGEON is distinguished from all others, by a broad circle of naked white skin which surrounds the eyes; and by the colour of the plumage, which is of a dark blue inclining to black. From their attachment to their native place, these birds are employed in several countries as the most expeditious carriers of letters; and formerly they were commonly used in conveying letters from place to place in time of war, and in case of sieges, when all other means of communication were intercepted, or cut off by the enemy.—These birds have been known to fly at the rate of seventy-two miles in the space of two hours and a half. One of them will carry a letter from Babylon to Aleppo in forty-eight hours, though the journey generally occupies a man for thirty days.

The PASSENGER PIGEON is about the size of the common Pigeon. The head, throat, and upper parts of the body are ash coloured; the sides of the neck are of a glossy variable purple; the fore part of the neck and breast are vinaceous; the under parts of a similar colour, but paler; and there is a crimson mark round the eyes. These birds visit the different parts of North America in such immense flocks that we may justly apply to them Milton's expression of "numbers numberless." One flight of them is said to have been seen which extended to eighty miles.

## THE TURTLEDOVE.



THE Turtledove is a smaller bird than either of the preceding, and is easily discriminated from other species by the yellow iris of the eye, and by a beautiful crimson circle that encompasses the eyelids. The general colour of the bird is a bluish gray; the breast and neck are a kind of whitish purple; and about the sides of the neck is a ringlet of beautiful white feathers, with black edges.

The note of this bird is singularly tender and plaintive; in addressing his mate, the male makes use of a variety of winning attitudes, cooing at the same time in the most gentle and soothing accents. The fidelity of these birds has furnished poets and sentimental writers with the most beautiful allusions; and it is generally asserted, that if a pair be put into a cage, and one happen to die, the other will not survive it. It arrives late in the spring, and departs about the latter end of August: it frequents the thickest and most sheltered parts of the woods, where it builds its nest on the highest trees: the female lays two eggs, and has only one brood in this country, but in warmer

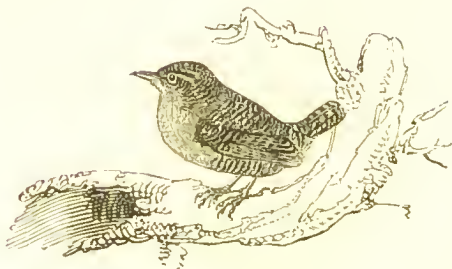
climates it is supposed to breed several times in the year. These birds are so common in Kent, that they are sometimes seen in flocks of twenty or more, frequenting the pea-fields, and are said to do much damage. Their stay with us seldom exceeds more than four or five months, during which time they pair, build their nests, breed, and rear their young; which are strong enough to join them in their retreat.

### THE GOLDFINCH.



THIS bird, which is too well known to need a particular description, is universally esteemed, both for the melody of its note and the beauty of its colours. It is of a gentle nature; soon becomes reconciled to captivity, and may be easily taught a variety of entertaining tricks; there being few birds of equal intelligence and docility. When in solitude it takes great delight in viewing its own image in a mirror. It is sometimes called the Thistlefinch, from its fondness for the seeds of that plant. The female generally builds in fruit trees, and lays five eggs of a white colour, speckled and marked with a reddish brown. The nest is admirably constructed; the outside consisting of moss interwoven with other materials; and the inside being lined with wool, feathers, and down.

## THE WREN.



THIS Lilliputian songster is a native of every part of Europe. It weighs only three drachms, is but four inches in length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, and is admired for the loudness of its note, compared with the little body whence it issues. It will carol forth its strains unconcerned during a fall of snow. Even when confined in a cage it has sometimes been known to sing as strong as in its native fields, and with equal freedom and mellowness of song. It commonly creeps about hedges or trees, in the vicinity of farmyards, and sings very late in the evening, though not, like the nightingale, after the landscape is enveloped with darkness.—The female lays from ten to eighteen eggs, which are very small, white, and sprinkled with red spots.

The Wren constructs its nest in a very curious manner. Unlike other birds, it does not begin first at the bottom. If the nest be placed against a bank it commences the fabric at the top; if against a tree, it at the outset traces the outline on the bark, and closes the sides and top in succession. When it builds against a hayrick, the exterior of the nest is of that material;

when it is on the side of a tree covered with white lichen, or green moss, the fabric is of one or other of those substances; but the interior is uniformly lined with feathers.

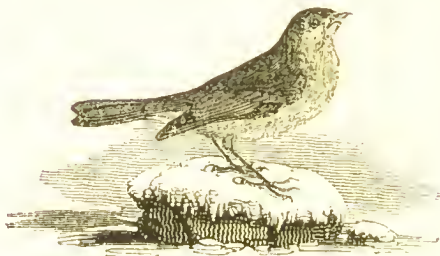
### THE GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

THIS is the smallest of all British birds, is very beautiful, and has an extremely delicate and pleasing note, somewhat less loud than that of the Common Wren. In winter it may be distinguished by its shrill squeak, which somewhat resembles the cricking of a grasshopper. It is very agile, and is almost constantly in motion, either fluttering from branch to branch, creeping on all sides of the trees, clinging to them in all ways, and often hanging with its back downward, like a titmouse. Insects and their eggs, small worms, and various kinds of seeds, constitute its food. The female lays from ten to eighteen eggs, which are scarcely larger than peas; and the nest is frequently formed amongst the leaves at the top of the branch of a fir tree, where, in high winds, it swings like a pendulum.

Of this Wren the head and upper part are of a deep reddish brown; the back, and the coverts of the wings and tail are marked with slender transverse black lines; the quill feathers are barred with black and red; the belly and sides are crossed with narrow dusky and pale reddish brown lines; the tail is crossed with dusky bars; the throat is a yellowish white; and there is a stroke of white above each eye.

The WILLOW WREN is a native of the northern snowy parts of Europe, and almost rivals the nightingale in the sweetness of its song, which it pours forth from the loftiest branches of the birch tree. It visits England about the middle of April, and departs at the end of September.

## THE REDBREAST.



THOUGH the Redbreast is generally admired for his song, he is still more admired for his attachment to, and confidence in, mankind. In all countries, he is a favourite, and has what may be called a pet name. The inhabitants of Bornholm call him *Tommi Liden*, the Norwegians, *Peter Ronsmed*, the Germans, *Thomas Gierdet*, and in our country he is known as Robin Redbreast, or by the still more familiar appellation of Bob. Buffon describes with his usual elegance the winter manners of this bird. "In that season," says he, "they visit our dwellings, and seek the warmest and most sheltered situations; and if any one happens still to continue in the woods, it becomes the companion of the faggot maker, cherishes itself at his fire, pecks at his bread, and flutters the whole day round him, chirping its slender *pip*. But when the cold grows more severe, and thick snow covers the ground, it approaches our houses, and taps at the windows with its bill, as if to entreat an asylum, which is cheerfully granted; and it repays the favour by the most amiable familiarity, gathering the crumbs from the table, distinguishing affectionately the people of the house, and assuming a warble, not indeed so rich

as that in the spring, but more delicate. This it retains through all the rigours of the season; to hail each day the kindness of its host, and the sweetness of its retreat." The bill of the Robin is slender and delicate; its eyes are large, dark, and expressive, and its aspect mild; its head and all the upper parts of its body are brown, tinged with a greenish olive; the neck and breast are of a fine deep reddish orange; a spot of the same colour marks its forehead: its belly is whitish, and the legs and feet of a dusky black. It is near six inches in length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, the former being about half an inch, and the latter two inches and a half.

This bird, in our climate, has the sweetest song of all others: the notes of other birds are, indeed, louder, and their inflections more capricious; but the Redbreast's voice is soft, tender, and well supported; and the more to be valued as we enjoy it the greatest part of the winter.

During the spring, the Robin haunts the wood, the grove, and the garden, and retires to the thickest and shadiest hedgerows to breed in, where its nest is usually placed among the roots of trees, in some concealed spot near the ground. In winter it endeavours to support itself, by chirping round the warm habitations of mankind, and by coming into those shelters where the rigour of the season is artificially expelled, and where insects are found in the greatest numbers, attracted by the same cause.—The female lays from five to seven eggs, of a dull white colour, diversified with reddish streaks. Insects and worms are the principal food of the Redbreast. The latter it very dexterously renders fit to be eaten, by taking hold of the extremity of one in its beak, and beating it against the ground till the inside comes away, and then repeating the operation with the other end, till the outer part is entirely cleaved.

## THE LARK.



ALL the birds of this name, including the Skylark, the Woodlark, and the Titlark, are distinguishable from other small volatiles by the length of the claw of their back toe, which is either straight or a little bent. Their nostrils are covered with feathers and bristles, and the tongue is cloven at the end. The song of these birds is also louder than that of other warblers, but, unless heard in their wild state, is not so pleasing. Indeed the music of every bird in captivity is but the mirth of a little animal insensible of its unfortunate situation: it is the scenery of the umbrageous grove or rural landscape, the golden break of day, the fluttering from branch to branch, the soaring in the air, or the answering of its young, that gives the bird's song its true relish, and elevates the mind to a state of the highest yet most harmless exultation.—Nothing in this point of view can be more gratifying than to see the Lark warbling upon the wing; raising its note as it soars aloft; then descending with a swell as it comes from the clouds, yet sinking by degrees as it approaches its nest,—



the spot where all its affections are centred,—the spot that has excited all its joy, and called forth those harmonious strains.

The female builds her nest upon the ground beneath some turf that serves to screen it from observation: she lays four or five eggs, of a dusky hue; and when her little family come forth, she may be seen fluttering over their heads, directing their motions, anticipating their wants, and sedulously guarding them from danger. Indeed, the instinctive attachment which this animal bears to her young is sometimes manifested at a very early period, and even before she is capable of becoming a mother.

The common food of the young Larks is worms and insects; but after they are grown up they live chiefly on seeds, herbage, and most other vegetable substances.

The song of the Lark commences early in the spring, and continues throughout the summer, but is chiefly heard in the morning and evening. The Lark ascends almost perpendicularly, and by successive springs, into the air, and hovers there at such a vast height as often to be invisible, though its notes are clearly heard. It is one of the few birds that pour forth its song while on the wing. In consequence of the form of the hinder toe, the Lark never perches on trees; it being unable to cling by the toes. The Lark may be easily tamed, and will then eat off the table, and even alight on the hand.

The smallest species of this tribe is the GRASS-HOPPER LARK. The upper part of its body is of a variegated greenish brown; the under parts of a yellowish white, irregularly speckled on the neck and breast. It is a very shy bird, and forms its nest in some solitary place. Its name is derived from its making a kind of sibilous whisper, not unlike the sound emitted by a grasshopper.

## THE BULFINCH.



THE Bulfinch belongs to the grosbeak tribe, and is a very common but handsome bird. When at its full growth it measures from the point of the bill to the end of the tail six inches, of which the tail is two. It has a short black bill, very strong and crooked, the upper part hanging over the under like that of a hawk; the tongue is short, and the eyes of a hazel colour; the head and neck in proportion to the body are larger than in the generality of small birds, from which, most probably, they derived their name. In some places they are called Ropes; in others, Thick-bills, and in some Red-hoops, or Tony-hoops, probably from their wild hooping kind of note.

The Bulfinch makes its nest of an ordinary mean fabric, in bushes, in which the female lays four or five eggs of a bluish colour, with dark brown and reddish spots. The nest so closely resembles the surrounding foliage in colour that it is not easily to be discovered. In the summer it mostly frequents woods, and the more retired places; but in winter it approaches gardens and orchards, where in spring it makes great havoc among the buds of trees. It is probable, how-

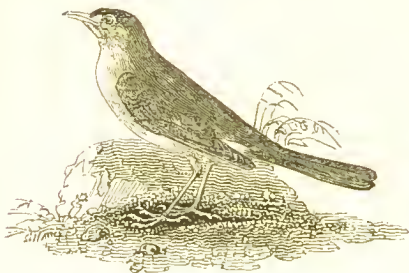
ever, that it attacks the buds for the sake of the included insects.

The cock is in size equal to the hen, but has a flatter crown, and excels her in the beauty of his colours. In a state of nature this bird has but three cries, all of which are unpleasant: but if man deigns to instruct it methodically, and accustoms it to fine, mellow, and more lengthened strains, it will listen with attention; and the docile bird, whether male or female, without relinquishing its native airs, will imitate exactly, and sometimes even surpass its master. It also learns to articulate words and sentences.

These birds must not be taken too young; they should be at least twelve days old: at first they must be fed the same as the young linnet, chaffinch, &c. with bread, milk, and rape seed, made into a paste; and, when grown up, with rape and canary seed, three-fourths rape, and one-fourth canary. They, as well as the starlings, require much pains to be taken with them in the early part of their education, and should never be fed without what they are wished to learn being repeated to them; they soon grow attentive, and generally by the time they are three months old, will begin to repeat to themselves, after which a very few lessons will render them perfect.

The Grosbeak tribe, to which, as we have already stated, the Bullfinch belongs, contains several species. Of the foreign varieties we may mention the CARDINAL, the GRENADIER, the ABYSSINIAN and PHILIPPINE, the BENGAL, and the SOCIABLE GROSBEAK. The first of these lays up in summer its winter provision of corn; the second is remarkable for its beautiful scarlet colour; the third and fourth construct nests unassailable by the monkey, and undamageable by the rain; the fifth will fetch and carry like a dog; and the sixth is a bird which lives in societies of from eight hundred to a thousand, all under what may be denominated one roof.

## THE NIGHTINGALE.



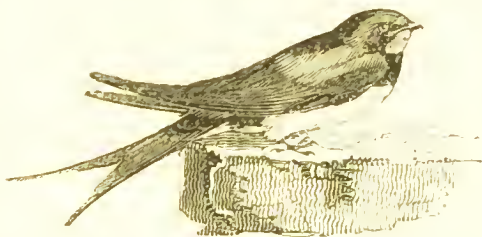
It is not by the beauty of his plumage that this universally admired bird has become a general favourite, and the theme of almost every poet; for he is one of those warblers which are the most humbly attired. He is about six inches long, and the upper part of his body is of a rusty brown, tinged with olive; the under parts are of a pale ash colour, almost white at the throat and belly. But in his song he surpasses all the choristers of air, his notes being exquisitely varied, soft, and harmonious, and rendered still more pleasing by their being poured forth in the night when the other warblers are all silent. In a calm evening he may be heard to the distance of more than half a mile.

The Nightingale visits England in the beginning of April, and generally retires about the middle of September. It is supposed to take its flight to the Asiatic regions. It is only found in some of the southern parts of the country, being totally unknown in Scotland, Ireland, and North Wales; and as it generally keeps in the middle of its favourite bush or tree, it is but rarely seen. It is a solitary bird, and never associates in flocks. The female constructs

her nest of the leaves of trees, straw, and moss, and usually lays four or five eggs; but it seldom happens in our climate that all these come to maturity. She hatches twice, and sometimes three times, in the year. While she performs the duty of incubation, the male sits on some adjacent branch, to cheer the tedious hours by his harmonious voice, or by the short interruption of his song to give her timely notice of approaching danger.

Nightingales may be taught the notes of other birds, and even to sing by turns in a chorus, and to repeat their couplet at the proper time. They are also capable of learning to articulate words, and many stories are told of the proficiency which they have acquired.

### THE SWALLOW.



THE Swallow tribe have bills which are short, broad at the bent, small at the point, and slightly curved. Their tongue is short, broad, and cloven, the nostrils are open, and the mouth is wide. Except in one species, the wings are long, and the tail is forked. They have short slender legs, and the toes are placed three before and one behind, with the exception of four species, in which the toes are all placed forward. They have a peculiar twittering voice, fly with extreme rapidity, scarcely ever walk, and perform all their

functions while they are on the wing or sitting. Their plumage is glossed with a rich purple. The wood cut represents the House or Chimney Swallow.

To the Martins, and other small birds, the Swallow announces the approach of birds of prey. By a shrill alarming note, he summons around him all his own species and the Martins, as soon as an owl or hawk appears. The whole band then pursue and strike their enemy till they expel him from the place; darting down on his back, and rising in a perpendicular line with perfect security. The Swallow will also strike at cats while they are climbing the roofs of houses.

Early in the spring, when the solar beams begin to rouse the insect tribes from their annual state of torpidity, the Swallow is seen returning from its long migrations beyond the ocean; and in proportion as the weather grows warmer, and its insect supply increases, it gathers strength and activity. The breed of the Swallow ought to be cherished, as the bird is of infinite service to mankind by destroying myriads of vermin which would prove fatally prejudicial to the labours of the husbandman. The female builds her nest with great industry on the tops of chimneys, and sometimes breeds twice a year. The greater part of these birds quit our island at the latter end of September; but some are said to retire to holes and caverns, where they pass the winter in a state of torpidity. It is affirmed that, in their torpid state, they can exist even under water.

END OF VOL. I.









